STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Division of Mitigation Services

Invitation for Bid #: 351554882

DEQ FLOOD RESILIENCY BLUEPRINT

Date of Issue: January 20, 2022

Bid Opening Date: February 24, 2022

At 02:00 PM ET

Direct all inquiries concerning this IFB to:

Brooke Wells
Purchasing Agent

Email: Brooke.Wells@ncdenr.gov
Phone: 919-707-8451
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Invitation for Bid #

351554882

For internal State agency processing, including tabulation of bids, provide your company’s eVP (Electronic Vendor Portal) Number. Pursuant to G.S. 132-1.10(b) this identification number shall not be released to the public. **This page will be removed and shredded, or otherwise kept confidential**, before the procurement file is made available for public inspection.

This page shall be filled out and returned with your bid. Failure to do so may subject your bid to rejection.

___________________________________________________

Vendor Name

___________________________________________________

Vendor eVP#

**Note:** For your bid to be considered, your company (you) must be a North Carolina registered vendor in good standing. You must enter the vendor number assigned through eVP (Electronic Vendor Portal). If you do not have a vendor number, register at [https://vendor.ncgov.com/vendor/login](https://vendor.ncgov.com/vendor/login)

*Electronic responses ONLY will be accepted for this solicitation.*
**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**Division of Mitigation Services**

Refer **ALL** Inquiries regarding this IFB to:  
Brooke Wells  
Brooke.Wells@ncdenr.gov

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Using Agency: Mitigation Services</th>
<th>Commodity No. and Description: 7017 Water Resources Development &amp; Oversight</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Invitation for Bid #:</th>
<th>351554882</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bids will be publicly opened:</td>
<td>February 24, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Requisition No.: | N/A |

**EXECUTION**

In compliance with this Invitation for Bid (IFB), and subject to all the conditions herein, the undersigned Vendor offers and agrees to furnish and deliver any or all items upon which prices are bid, at the prices set opposite each item within the time specified herein.

By executing this bid, the undersigned Vendor understands that false certification is a Class I felony and certifies that:

- this bid is submitted competitively and without collusion (G.S. 143-54),
- none of its officers, directors, or owners of an unincorporated business entity has been convicted of any violations of Chapter 78A of the General Statutes, the Securities Act of 1933, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (G.S. 143-59.2), and
- it is not an ineligible Vendor as set forth in G.S. 143-59.1.

Furthermore, by executing this bid, the undersigned certifies to the best of Vendor’s knowledge and belief, that:

- it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal or State department or agency.

As required by G.S. 143-48.5, the undersigned Vendor certifies that it, and each of its sub-Contractors for any Contract awarded as a result of this IFB, complies with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the NC General Statutes, including the requirement for each employer with more than 25 employees in North Carolina to verify the work authorization of its employees through the federal E-Verify system.

G.S. 133-32 and Executive Order 24 (2009) prohibit the offer to, or acceptance by, any State Employee associated with the preparing plans, specifications, estimates for public contracts; or awarding or administering public contracts; or inspecting or supervising delivery of the public contract of any gift from anyone with a contract with the State, or from any person seeking to do business with the State. By execution of this response to the IFB, the undersigned certifies, for Vendor’s entire organization and its employees or agents, that Vendor is not aware that any such gift has been offered, accepted, or promised by any employees of your organization.

By executing this bid, Vendor certifies that it has read and agreed to the **INSTRUCTION TO VENDORS** and the **NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**. These documents can be accessed from the ATTACHMENTS page within this document.

**Failure to execute/sign bid prior to submittal may render bid invalid and it MAY BE REJECTED. Late bids shall not be accepted.**

**COMPLETE/FORMAL NAME OF VENDOR:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STREET ADDRESS:</th>
<th>P.O. BOX:</th>
<th>ZIP:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CITY &amp; STATE &amp; ZIP:</td>
<td>TELEPHONE NUMBER:</td>
<td>TOLL FREE TEL. NO:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE (SEE INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS ITEM #12):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRINT NAME &amp; TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING ON BEHALF OF VENDOR:</td>
<td>FAX NUMBER:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VENDOR’S AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE*:</td>
<td>DATE:</td>
<td>EMAIL:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ver. 11/2021
VALIDITY PERIOD
Offer shall be valid for at least 60 days from date of bid opening, unless otherwise stated here: ________ days, or if extended by mutual agreement of the parties. Any withdrawal of this offer shall be made in writing, effective upon receipt by the agency issuing this IFB.

ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS
If your bid is accepted, all provisions of this IFB, along with the written results of any negotiations, shall constitute the written agreement between the parties (“Contract”). The NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS are incorporated herein and shall apply. Depending upon the Goods or Services being offered, other terms and conditions may apply, as mutually agreed.

FOR STATE USE ONLY: Offer accepted and Contract awarded this________ day of __________, 20____, as indicated on
The attached certification, by ____________________________________________________________________.

(Authorized Representative of Division of Mitigation Services)
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1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

In the 2021 Appropriations Act, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Mitigation Services (DMS) received appropriations to develop a statewide Flood Resiliency Blueprint ("Blueprint"). The Blueprint is envisioned as a volume-based, watershed-based, decision-making framework that can be used to evaluate risk, prioritize, and identify funding solutions, and empower local communities to make smart investments that increase resilience to flooding. The Blueprint will be a statewide watershed planning effort which will likely be a multistage process beginning with two pilot watersheds. It will not fund the construction of specific mitigation projects. It is intended to identify flood risks and hazard areas, and to prioritize tools, tactics, procedures, governance, and project areas within key watersheds to support effective decision making and implementation with respect to flood resiliency.

This solicitation is not to offer for a Contract, nor does the Department’s acceptance of any proposal guarantee a Contract with the Department. The intent of this solicitation is to pre-qualify a short list of organizations who will be invited to respond to a full scope of work (SOW) to deliver the North Carolina flood resiliency Blueprint, via a forthcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) to be issued in the spring of 2022.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all Statements of Qualification (SOQs) deemed not to be in the best interest of the State of North Carolina.

1.1 PRE-QUALIFICATION PERIOD

This pre-qualification shall have a maximum of one (1) year. At the end of the one (1) year, the State shall have the option, in its sole discretion to extend this pre-qualification period of up to 180 days in 90-day-or-less increments. The State will give the Vendor written notice of its intent whether to extend no later than thirty (30) days before the end of the current pre-qualification period.

SOQs shall be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of this IFB and any addenda issued hereto.

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 INVITATION FOR BID DOCUMENT

This IFB is comprised of the base IFB document, any attachments, and any addenda released before Contract award, which are incorporated herein by reference.

2.2 NOTICE TO VENDORS REGARDING IFB TERMS AND CONDITIONS

It shall be the Vendor’s responsibility to read the Instructions to Vendors, the North Carolina General Terms and Conditions, all relevant exhibits and attachments, and any other components made a part of this IFB and comply with all requirements and specifications herein. Vendors are also responsible for obtaining and complying with all Addenda and other changes that may be issued in connection with this IFB.

If Vendors have questions, issues, or exceptions regarding any term, condition, or other component of this IFB, those must be submitted as questions in accordance with the instructions in the BID QUESTIONS Section. If the State determines that any changes will be made because of the questions asked, then such decisions will be communicated in the form of an IFB addendum. The State may also elect to leave open the possibility for later negotiation and amendment of specific provisions of the Contract that have been addressed during the question-and-answer period. Other than through this Q and A process or negotiation under 01 NCAC 05B.0503, the State rejects and will not be required to evaluate or consider any additional or modified terms and conditions submitted with Vendor’s bid or otherwise. This applies to any language appearing in or attached to the document as part of the Vendor’s bid that purports to vary any terms and conditions or Vendors’ instructions herein or to render the bid non-binding or subject to further negotiation. Vendor’s bid shall constitute a firm offer that shall be held open for the period required herein ("Validity Period" above).

By execution and delivery of this IFB Response, the Vendor agrees that any additional or modified terms and conditions, whether submitted purposely or inadvertently, shall have no force or effect, and will be
Bid Number: 351554882  Vendor: 

disregarded. Noncompliance with, or any attempt to alter or delete, this paragraph shall constitute sufficient grounds to reject Vendor’s bid as nonresponsive. The State may exercise its discretion to consider Vendor proposed modifications.

2.2 IFB SCHEDULE

The table below shows the intended schedule for this IFB. The State will make every effort to adhere to this schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issue IFB</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>January 20, 2022 02:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hold Pre-Bid Meeting</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>January 27, 2022 11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Written Questions</td>
<td>Vendor</td>
<td>February 03, 2022 02:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Bids</td>
<td>Vendor</td>
<td>February 24, 2022 02:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract Award</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract Effective Date</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2.3 PRE-BID CONFERENCE

VIRTUAL Urged and Cautioned Pre-Bid Conference

| Date:      | 01/27/2021 |
| Time:      | 11:00 AM Eastern Time |
| Location:  | TEAMS       |
| Contact #: | 919-707-8451 |

Instructions: Vendor representatives are URGED and CAUTIONED to attend this virtual event and apprise themselves of the conditions and requirements that will affect the performance of the work called for by this IFB. A virtual, non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for 11:00 AM Eastern on Thursday, January 27, 2022. Submission to this IFB shall constitute conclusive evidence of Vendor’s understanding of the purpose and significance of this event, and no allowance will be made for unreported conditions that a prudent Vendor would recognize as affecting the performance of the work called for in this bid. This conference is the only occasion on which this information shall be made available for the IFB.

Vendor representatives may request an invitation to the pre-bid by submitting an e-mail to Brooke.Wells@ncdenr.gov on or before the pre-bid date specified above. Vendors should enter “IFB 351554882: Request to Attend Virtual Pre-bid” as the subject line for the email. Vendor attendance will be limited to two (2) representatives. An email invitation to a Microsoft TEAMS meeting will be sent to the email address(es) provided. (MS TEAMS is an online communication tool which allows a virtual meeting setting to share information. The app is approved by the NC DEQ Division of Information Technology (IT) and there is no purchase required for download and use.) Attendees are reminded to enter the MS TEAMS with camera selected to the off position, and microphone muted. It is up to the vendor to check their internet connection ahead of time as DMS will not be responsible for any connection issues vendors may experience during the conference. DMS will provide attendees with a brief instructional overview for navigational guidance. Attendees are encouraged to ask IFB related questions in writing using the chat tool. DMS will verbally respond to written questions.

Vendor is cautioned that any information released to attendees during the pre-bid, other than that involving the virtual aspects referenced above, and which conflicts with, supersedes, or adds to requirements in this IFB, must be confirmed by written addendum before it can be considered as a part of this bid.

Only one (1) pre-determined, pre-proposal conference will be held; individual pre-proposal conferences are not allowed.
2.4 BID QUESTIONS

Upon review of the IFB documents, Vendors may have questions to clarify or interpret the IFB to submit the best bid possible. To accommodate the Bid Questions process, Vendors shall submit any such questions by the “Submit Written Questions” date and time provided in the IFB SCHEDULE Section above, unless modified by Addendum.

Questions related to the content of the solicitation, or the procurement process should be directed to the person on the title page of this document via the Sourcing Tool's message board by the date and time specified in the IFB SCHEDULE Section of this IFB. Vendors will enter “IFB # 351554882 – Questions” as the subject of the message. Question submittals should include a reference to the applicable IFB section. This is the only manner in which questions will be received.

Questions or issues related to using the Sourcing Tool itself can be directed to the North Carolina eProcurement Help Desk at 888-211-7440, Option 2. Help Desk representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM ET to 5:00 PM ET.

Questions received prior to the submission deadline date, the State’s response, and any additional terms deemed necessary by the State will be posted in the Sourcing Tool in the form of an addendum and shall become an Addendum to this IFB. No information, instruction or advice provided orally or informally by any State personnel, whether made in response to a question or otherwise in connection with this IFB, shall be considered authoritative or binding. Vendors shall rely only on written material contained in the IFB and an addendum to this IFB.

2.5 BID SUBMITTAL

**IMPORTANT NOTE: This is an absolute requirement.** Vendor shall bear the risk of late submission due to unintended or unanticipated delay. It is the Vendor’s sole responsibility to ensure its bid has been received as described in this IFB by the specified time and date of opening. Failure to submit a bid in strict accordance with instructions provided shall constitute sufficient cause to reject a Vendor’s bids(s). Solicitation responses are subject to Sealed Bidding requirements.

Vendor’s bids for this procurement must be submitted through the Sourcing Tool. For training on how to use the Sourcing Tool to view solicitations, submit questions, develop responses, upload documents, and submit offers to the State, Vendors should go to the following site: https://eprocurement.nc.gov/training/vendor-training

Questions or issues related to using the Sourcing Tool itself can be directed to the North Carolina eProcurement Help Desk at 888-211-7440, Option 2. Help Desk representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM EST to 5:00 PM EST.

**Tips for Using the Sourcing Tool**

1. Vendors should review available training and confirm that they are able to access the Sourcing Event, enter responses, and upload files well in advance of the date and time response are due to allow sufficient time to seek assistance from the North Carolina eProcurement Help Desk.

2. Vendors may submit their responses early to make sure there are no issues, and then submit a revised response any time prior to the response due date and time. The State will only review the most recent response.

3. Vendors should respond to all relevant sections of the Sourcing Event. Certain questions or items are required in order to submit a response and are denoted with an asterisk. The Sourcing Tool will not allow a response to be submitted unless all required items are completed. The Sourcing Tool will provide error messages to help identify any required information that is missing when response is submitted.

4. Simply saving your response in the Sourcing Tool is not the same as submitting your response to the State. Vendors should make sure they complete the submission process and receive a message that their response was successfully submitted.
2.6 BID CONTENTS

Vendors shall provide responses to all questions and complete all attachments for this IFB that require the Vendor to provide information and upload them to the Sourcing Event in the Sourcing Tool. Vendor may not be able to submit its response in the Sourcing Tool unless all required items are addressed. Vendors shall provide authorized signatures where requested. Failure to provide all required items, or Vendor’s submission of incomplete items, may result in the State rejecting Vendor’s bid, in the State’s sole discretion.

Vendors shall upload the following items and attachments in the Sourcing Tool:

a) Cover Letter, must include a statement that confirms that the Vendor has read the IFB in its entirety, including all links, and all Addenda released in conjunction with the IFB
b) Title Page: Include the company name, address, phone number and authorized representative along with the Bid Number
c) Completed and signed version of all EXECUTION PAGES, along with the body of the IFB
d) Signed receipt pages of any addenda released in conjunction with this IFB, if required to be returned
e) Vendor’s Response to Section 4.1
f) Completed version of ATTACHMENT C: HUB SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION
g) Completed version of ATTACHMENT D: CUSTOMER REFERENCE FORM
h) Completed version of ATTACHMENT E: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR
i) Completed and signed version of ATTACHMENT F: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

2.7 DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS, AND ABBREVIATIONS

Relevant definitions for this IFB are provided in 01 NCAC 05A .0112 and in the Instructions to Vendors found below which are incorporated herein by this reference.

The following definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations are also relevant to this IFB:

**Appropriations Act:** GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION LAW 2021-180, "Current Operations Appropriations Act of 2021."

**Coastal Flooding:** Flood hazards that include wave action, storm surge, and tidal flooding.

**Compound Flooding:** A phenomenon in which two or more flooding sources occur simultaneously or subsequently within a short period of time. The most common type of compound flooding—a combination of storm surge and riverine flooding—can produce floodwaters that are longer in duration and more widespread than anticipated.

**Flood Resiliency Blueprint ("Blueprint"):** A statewide, watershed-based, volume-based, flood resilience planning approach and decision-making framework, intended to form the backbone of North Carolina’s flood planning process. Development of the blueprint was assigned to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Mitigation Services, in the 2021 Appropriations Act.

**Mitigation:** Any practice that reduces the overall risk of flood damage and loss or reduces the severity of flood damage when it occurs.

**National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):** The program of flood insurance coverage and floodplain management administered under the Act and applicable Federal regulations promulgated in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Subchapter B

**Nature-based Solutions:** Also referred to as "nature-based infrastructure;" an approach that uses natural systems or processes to provide flood mitigation, such as wetlands for flood storage or coastal marsh to reduce the impact of waves, storm surge, and coastal erosion.

**Non-Structural Mitigation:** Practices that reduce flood losses by removing people and property out of risk areas. Non-structural mitigation techniques include elevated structures, property buyouts, permanent relocation, zoning, subdivision, building codes, and stormwater detention requirements.

**Organization:** A vendor or team of vendors that intend to respond to the NC flood resiliency blueprint IFB.
Pluvial Flooding: Commonly referred to as “flash floods,” principally caused by downpours in areas without adequate drainage, by removal of natural storage functions, or by modification of natural drainage.

Resilience: Being prepared, ready to respond, able to cope and recover from a flood event. Resilience to flooding can be achieved through a suite of tools and services, including mitigation.

Riverine Flooding: Fluvial, or riverine flooding, occurs when excessive rainfall over an extended period causes a river to exceed its channel capacity.

Structural Mitigation: Practices that reduce flood losses by reconstructing landscapes. Structural mitigation techniques include floodwalls/seawalls, floodgates, levees, evacuation routes, and stormwater control measures.

Watershed: An area of land that contains a common set of waterbodies (streams, rivers, lakes, or wetlands) that all drain into a single larger body of water. Watersheds can be defined at multiple geographic scales. In North Carolina, 17 “major” watersheds (basins) are defined by statute.

3.0 IFB STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATION PROCESS

DMS will review all Vendor Statement of Qualification (SOQ) responses to this IFB Pre-Qualification (IFB) to confirm that each one complies with the specifications and requirements of the IFB.

3.0.1 Statement of Qualifications

DMS will conduct an evaluation of Statement of Qualifications (SOQs), as follows:

a) SOQs will be received from each responsive Vendor digitally.

b) All SOQs shall be received by the issuing agency no later than the date and time specified on the cover sheet of this IFB, or as modified by a bid addendum.

c) At the date and time specified as the bid opening, the SOQs from each responding Vendor will be opened publicly and the name of the Vendor will be announced. Interested parties are cautioned that the SOQs and their components are subject to further evaluation for completeness and correctness. DMS may request clarifications with any or all Vendors to clarify or to amplify the materials presented in any part of the SOQ or requested in the IFB.

d) DMS will score and rank the SOQs. Up to five (5) of the highest ranked SOQs will be identified as pre-qualified vendors.

3.0.2 Request for Proposals (RFP)

DMS will conduct the Request for Proposal (RFP), as follows:

a) DMS will solicit Request for Proposals (RFPs) from the pre-qualified Vendors. The two-step RFP bid process will require submittal of a technical proposal and sealed cost. DMS will evaluate technical proposals.

b) At a specified time and date, prequalified vendors will present their project approach and answer questions. The 1-hour presentations will be held at the DEQ Office located at 217 West Jones Street, Raleigh. Presentations of information will be limited to twenty (20) minutes with the remaining time used to field and answer specific questions about proposed data and methodologies.

c) After presentations, the RFP cost opening will be scheduled. A contract decision will be recommended based on technical scores and costs.

Vendors are cautioned that this is an invitation for pre-qualification, not an offer or request to contract, and the State reserves the unqualified right to reject all SOQs at any time if such rejection is deemed to be in the best interest of the State.

The State reserves the right to waive any minor informality or technicality in bids received.
3.1 CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROHIBITED COMMUNICATIONS DURING EVALUATION

While this IFB is under evaluation, the responding Vendor, including any subcontractors and suppliers, is prohibited from engaging in conversations intended to influence the outcome of the evaluation. See the Paragraph of the Instructions to Vendors Entitled Confidential Information.

3.2 PERFORMANCE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Vendor shall complete ATTACHMENT E: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR. In addition to any other evaluation criteria identified in this IFB, the State may also consider, for purposes of evaluating proposed or actual contract performance outside of the United States, how that performance may affect the following factors to ensure that any award will be in the best interest of the State:

a) Total cost to the State
b) Level of quality provided by the Vendor
c) Process and performance capability across multiple jurisdictions
d) Protection of the State’s information and intellectual property
e) Availability of pertinent skills
f) Ability to understand the State’s business requirements and internal operational culture
g) Particular risk factors such as the security of the State’s information technology
h) Relations with citizens and employees
i) Contract enforcement jurisdictional issues

3.3 INTERPRETATION OF TERMS AND PHRASES

This IFB serves two functions: (1) to advise potential Vendors of the parameters of the solution being sought by the State; and (2) to provide (together with other specified documents) the terms of the Contract resulting from this procurement. The use of phrases such as “shall,” “must,” and “requirements” are intended to create enforceable contract conditions. In determining whether bids should be evaluated or rejected, the State will take into consideration the degree to which Vendors have proposed or failed to propose solutions that will satisfy the State’s needs as described in the IFB. Except as specifically stated in the IFB, no one requirement shall automatically disqualify a Vendor from consideration. However, failure to comply with any single requirement may result in the State exercising its discretion to reject a bid in its entirety.

4.0 REQUIREMENTS

This Section lists the requirements related to this IFB. By submitting a bid, the Vendor agrees to meet all stated requirements in this Section as well as any other specifications, requirements, and terms and conditions stated in this IFB. If a Vendor is unclear about a requirement or specification or believes a change to a requirement would allow for the State to receive a better bid, the Vendor is urged to submit these items in the form of a question during the question-and-answer period in accordance with the Bid Questions Section above.

4.1 CORPORATE BACKGROUND, EXPERIENCE, & ORGANIZATION

This section shall include background information on the firm submitting the proposal, the firm’s ability to carry out all phases of the proposal, information and experience concerning flood resilience planning, federal & state regulations, the firm’s office location(s), the experience of the project manager, the resumes of key personnel for the primary Vendor and sub-vendors and more.

*Unless noted, all experience must be within the past 10 years.

a) Describe specialized or appropriate expertise in flood modeling (hydrologic and hydraulic) at multiple scales, including:
   i. Applications suitable for multiscale watershed-level screening and hazard identification based on multiple recurrence intervals (e.g., 5, 10, 20, 50 year)
   ii. Applications suitable for multivariable flood mitigation project identification, prioritization, and selection
iii. Modeling of various flooding types (riverine, coastal, and pluvial flooding)
iv. Modeling of compound flooding events
v. Modeling of future flood events as influenced by the projected effects of climate change
vi. Modeling of future flood events based on increases or decreases in unmanaged stormwater runoff from impervious services
vii. Modeling stormwater detention requirement or incentive alternatives in flood-prone environments
viii. Modelling for multivariable alternative cost benefit analysis to assist decision makers with selecting projects, incentives, and restrictions, and other flood resiliency approaches for various storm events.

b) Describe the project team’s knowledge and experience with current Federal and State of NC regulations and policy that currently incentivize or limit the State's ability to address flood resiliency, such as:
   i. FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
   ii. Waters of the United States (WOTUS)
   iii. United States Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
   iv. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
   v. State of North Carolina Hazard Mitigation Plan
   vi. Coastal Area Management Act and the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission Rules
   vii. North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan
   viii. North Carolina and local floodplain and coastal building code(s)
   ix. North Carolina and local floodplain and coastal development permitting
   x. North Carolina Drainage Districts

c) Describe the project team’s experience leading statewide or watershed-scale flood resilience planning projects, including:
   i. Community flood risk evaluation (riverine, pluvial, and coastal) and pre-disaster planning
   ii. Flood resilience planning for infrastructure (roads, bridges, water treatment, stormwater, energy, etc.)
   iii. Utilizing existing relevant data (local and statewide watershed and resiliency plans, climate, and flooding data)
   iv. Evaluation and alternative analysis of structural, non-structural, and nature-based flood mitigation options (cost-effectiveness, and multivariable project prioritization)
   v. Environmental justice and flood resilience in traditionally underserved communities
   vi. Flood resilience planning in response to climate change
   vii. Planning for stewardship and long-term management of flood mitigation assets
   viii. Flood resilience planning AND direct implementation/management of the implementation of the resulting plan, particularly across jurisdictional/agency boundaries

d) Describe the project team’s experience and success with stakeholder engagement and management, including:
   i. Working with local and regional stakeholders
   ii. Soliciting, synthesizing, and prioritizing feedback from diverse stakeholder groups
   iii. Local community capacity building, including project identification, watershed planning, and grant/funding identification and support
   iv. Establishing collaborative governance and/or shared decision-making frameworks
   v. Managing project status communications
   vi. Managing expectations
vii. Training and support for decision making tools to diverse audiences and decision makers

e) Describe the project team’s experience with policy development and benefit analysis (economic, social, and environmental) as related to flood resilience.

f) Describe the project team’s experience with the following related to flood resiliency decision support efforts:
   i. Existing flood decision support tools and data
   ii. Multi-variable decision support tool development/model development
   iii. Flood risk data visualization and communication for diverse local and state decision makers
   iv. Database development
   v. Empirical flood data collection, instrumentation, and/or monitoring
   vi. Data validation, management, and maintenance
   vii. Transparent, structured, multi-variable decision-making techniques that facilitate understanding and consensus for decision support values

g) Describe the project team’s direct involvement with any of the following, as specifically related to measuring flood risk, planning for flood resilience, evaluating flood mitigation investment, or communicating flood risk:
   i. Developing and applying innovative approaches
   ii. Proprietary technology
   iii. Incorporating “value-added” benefits (ecosystem services) such as water quality, recreation, and/or habitat
   iv. Publications (peer-reviewed or other)
   v. Award-winning design

h) Describe proposed team and key staff (including sub-contractors) for the project. Provide a table listing key team members and their professional training and experience:
   i. Professional licenses and certifications
   ii. Professional training
   iii. Areas of flood resilience expertise and experience (modeling, planning, decision support, communication, etc.)
   iv. Stakeholder engagement and decision-making

i) Provide current workload of the project team:
   i. Itemize current flood resilience projects
   ii. Provide a twenty-four (24) month workload analysis for the project team
   iii. Include a statement of ability to deliver a draft of the statewide flood resiliency blueprint to DMS by December 31, 2023

j) Describe recent experience with project cost and schedule management, specifically regarding large, multi-disciplinary teams and phased project implementation.

k) Describe proximity of the project team:
   i. Office in North Carolina
   ii. Proximity of key staff to North Carolina
I) Describe the quality control program and other procedures that will be used to ensure:
   i. Project deliverables are submitted in accordance with established schedules
   ii. Sufficient oversight is provided during the contract task activities so that the project is completed on schedule
   iii. Data utilized and generated meets NC Department of Information Technology (DIT) and agency quality standards (DEQ, Emergency Management, etc.)

4.2 FINANCIAL STABILITY
Each Vendor shall certify it is financially stable by completing ATTACHMENT F: CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CONDITION. The State is requiring this certification to minimize potential issues from contracting with a Vendor that is financially unstable. From the date of the Certification to the expiration of the Contract, the Vendor shall notify the State within thirty (30) days of any occurrence or condition that materially alters the truth of any statement made in this Certification. The Contract Manager may require annual recertification of the Vendor’s financial stability.

4.3 HUB PARTICIPATION
Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute G.S. 143-48, it is State policy to encourage and promote the use of small, minority, physically handicapped, and women contractors in purchasing Goods and Services. As such, this IFB will serve to identify those Vendors that are minority owned or have a strategic plan to support the State’s Historically Underutilized Business program by meeting or exceeding the goal of 10% utilization of diverse firms as 1st or 2nd tier subcontractors. Vendor shall complete ATTACHMENT C: HUB SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION.

4.4 REFERENCES
Vendor shall provide at least three (3) references, using ATTACHMENT D: CUSTOMER REFERENCE FORM, for which it has provided Services of similar size and scope to those proposed herein. The State may contact these users to determine whether the Services provided are substantially similar in scope to those proposed herein and whether Vendor’s performance has been satisfactory. The information obtained shall be considered in the evaluation of the Bid.

4.5 BACKGROUND CHECKS
Vendor and its personnel are required to provide or undergo background checks at Vendor’s expense prior to beginning work with the State. As part of Vendor background, the following details must be provided to the State:

a) Any criminal felony conviction, or conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude, including, but not limited to fraud, misappropriation, or deception, by Vendor, its officers, or directors, or any of its employees or other personnel to provide Services on this project, of which Vendor has knowledge, or provide a statement that Vendor is aware of none;

b) Any criminal investigation for any offense involving moral turpitude, including, but not limited to fraud, misappropriation, falsification, or deception pending against Vendor of which it has knowledge, or provide a statement Vendor is aware of none;

c) Any regulatory sanctions levied against Vendor or any of its officers, directors or its professional employees expected to provide Services on this project by any state or federal regulatory agencies within the past three years or a statement that there are none. As used herein, the term “regulatory sanctions” includes the revocation or suspension of any license or certification, the levying of any monetary penalties or fines, and the issuance of any written warnings;
d) Any **regulatory investigations** pending against Vendor or any of its officers, directors or its professional employees expected to provide Services on this project by any state or federal regulatory agencies of which Vendor has knowledge or a statement that there are none.

e) Any **civil litigation**, arbitration, proceeding, or judgments pending against Vendor during the three (3) years preceding submission of its bid herein or a statement that there are none.

Vendor’s response to these requests shall be considered a continuing representation, and Vendor’s failure to notify the State within thirty (30) days of any criminal litigation, investigation or proceeding involving Vendor or its then current officers, directors or persons providing Services under this Contract during its term shall constitute a material breach of contract. The provisions of this paragraph shall also apply to any subcontractor utilized by Vendor to perform Services under this Contract.

### 4.6 PERSONNEL

Vendor warrants that qualified personnel shall provide Services under this Contract in a professional manner. “Professional manner” means that the personnel performing the Services will possess the skill and competence consistent with the prevailing business standards in the industry. Vendor will serve as the prime contractor under this Contract and shall be responsible for the performance and payment of all subcontractor(s) that may be approved by the State. Names of any third-party Vendors or subcontractors of Vendor may appear for purposes of convenience in Contract documents; and shall not limit Vendor’s obligations hereunder. Vendor will retain executive representation for functional and technical expertise as needed to incorporate any work by third party subcontractor(s).

Should the Vendor’s bid result in an award, the Vendor shall be required to agree that it will not substitute key personnel assigned to the performance of the Contract without prior written approval by the Contract Lead. Vendor shall further agree that it will notify the Contract Lead of any desired substitution, including the name(s) and references of Vendor’s recommended substitute personnel. The State will approve or disapprove the requested substitution in a timely manner. The State may, in its sole discretion, terminate the Services of any person providing Services under this Contract. Upon such termination, the State may request acceptable substitute personnel or terminate the contract Services provided by such personnel.

### 5.0 SPECIFICATIONS AND SCOPE OF WORK

The 2021 Appropriations Act directs the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Mitigation Services (DMS), to: “…contract with an organization to develop a statewide Flood Resiliency Blueprint for major watersheds impacted by flooding, including, among others, the Cape Fear River and the Neuse River Basins. The watershed blueprint shall form the backbone of a State flood planning process that increases community resiliency to flooding, shall be a resource for riverine and stream management to reduce flooding, and should support the establishment and furtherance of local government stormwater maintenance programs. The blueprint shall identify the major watersheds affected by flooding and direct these funds toward the activities which are central to the creation of an actionable blueprint, namely flood risk assessment, identification of data gaps, and recommendations to reduce flood risk for each target watershed. When developing the blueprint with the organization selected, DMS shall ensure the blueprint incorporates local knowledge, community goals, projections of future flood risk, and the best available science and hydrologic modeling to create a decision tool for flood mitigation investments and strategies from local watersheds up to whole river basins. A successful blueprint should ultimately lead to a prioritized set of projects and funding strategies that the State can implement. DMS and the organization selected are encouraged to examine examples from other states such as the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan or the flood resiliency planning processes in South Carolina and Virginia. The organization shall send all necessary information to DMS on the implementation of the blueprint upon request by DMS. The organization shall submit an initial draft of the blueprint to DMS no later than December 31, 2023. DMS shall report by July 21, 2022, and annually thereafter to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division on the implementation of this subsection.”

Organizations responding to this IFB will be evaluated and ranked based on their responses to the information requested in Section 4. The top-ranking organizations are anticipated to be those that demonstrate a multidisciplinary team that can work effectively with state and local stakeholders to develop and deliver high quality products that meet the goals of the legislation on time. They will be invited to respond to a full scope of work (SOW) to deliver the North Carolina flood resiliency Blueprint, via a forthcoming Request for Proposal.
(RFP) to be issued in the spring of 2022. The full SOW will be determined by a combination of the following: 1) Specifications in the 2021 Appropriations Act language; 2) Key stakeholder input; 3) Information received via a Request for Information (RFI), issued concurrently with this IFB; and 4) The collective skill sets (strengths and limitations) of the organizations pre-qualified via this IFB.

5.1 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR RFP & BLUEPRINT DELIVERABLES

Below is the internal timeline related to the delivery of the flood resiliency blueprint RFP and contract terms. Organizations responding to this IFB should be prepared to comply with a detailed timeline that will be developed and include more details on deliverables along with multiple, time sensitive and intense document reviews.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Timeframe* (estimated in italics; firm in bold)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IFB Responses Due</td>
<td>February 24, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFB Response Scoring/short-listed organization selection</td>
<td>March 18, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFP Issued to short-listed organizations</td>
<td>March 29, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFP mandatory meeting</td>
<td>April 05, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFP questions due</td>
<td>April 12, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFP (proposal and cost) due</td>
<td>May 12, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFP in-person proposal presentations</td>
<td>Week of May 23, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFP scoring and award decision</td>
<td>Week of May 30, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blueprint contract execution</td>
<td>June 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Kickoff</td>
<td>July 1, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation to Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research</td>
<td>July 21, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation to Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research</td>
<td>July 21, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Blueprint delivered to DMS</td>
<td>December 31, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Blueprint delivered to DMS</td>
<td>December 31, 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Timeframe subject to change

5.2 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPROVALS

The North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) has certain standards for information technology equipment, especially if it interfaces with the State network. Approval by NCDIT is required before award of a contract to the extent these standards apply to this procurement. Agencies and Vendors are urged to determine the applicability of these NCDIT standards and to seek approval from NCDIT as necessary.

6.0 CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

This information is provided for the Vendor’s planning purposes.
6.1 PROJECT MANAGER AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
The Vendor shall be required to designate and make available to the State a project manager. The project manager shall be the State’s point of contact for Contract related issues and issues concerning performance, progress review, scheduling, and service.

6.2 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
The State encourages the Vendor to identify opportunities to reduce the total cost the State. A continuous improvement effort consists of various ways to enhance business efficiencies as performance progresses.

6.3 DISPUTE RESOLUTION
During the performance of the Contract, the parties agree that it is in their mutual interest to resolve disputes informally. Any claims by the Vendor shall be submitted in writing to the State’s Contract Manager for resolution. Any claims by the State shall be submitted in writing to the Vendor’s Project Manager for resolution. The Parties shall agree to negotiate in good faith and use all reasonable efforts to resolve such dispute(s).

During the time the Parties are attempting to resolve any dispute, each shall proceed diligently to perform their respective duties and responsibilities under this Contract. The Parties will agree on a reasonable amount of time to resolve a dispute. If a dispute cannot be resolved between the Parties within the agreed upon period, either Party may elect to exercise any other remedies available under the Contract, or at law. This provision, when agreed in the Contract, shall not constitute an agreement by either party to mediate or arbitrate any dispute.

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7.0 ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS

I. READ, REVIEW AND COMPLY

It shall be the Vendor’s responsibility to read this entire document; review all enclosures, attachments, and any Addenda; and comply with all requirements specified, whether appearing in these Instructions to Vendors or elsewhere in the Solicitation document.

Any gender-specific pronouns used herein, whether masculine or feminine, shall be read and construed as gender neutral, and the singular of any word or phrase shall be read to include the plural and vice versa.

II. REQUEST FOR OFFERS

Vendors are cautioned that this is a request for Offers, not an offer or request to contract, and the State reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all bids at any time if such rejection is deemed to be in the best interest of the State.

By submitting Your Bid or Proposal, You are offering to enter into a contract with the State.

The Contract is a separate document that represents the Vendor’s and the State’s entire agreement. If Your bid is accepted and results in a Contract, You will be expected to accept the North Carolina General Terms And Conditions included in the Solicitation document as part of the Contract. Depending upon the good or service being offered, other terms and conditions may apply.

III. DUTY TO INQUIRE

Offeror, by submitting an Offer, represents that it has read and understands the Solicitation and that its Offer is made in compliance with the Solicitation. Offerors are expected to examine the Solicitation thoroughly and should request an explanation for any ambiguities, discrepancies, errors, omissions, or conflicting statements in the Solicitation. Failure to do so will be at the Offeror's risk. All ambiguities, discrepancies, errors, omissions, or conflicting statements in the Solicitation shall be interpreted to require the better quality or greater quantity of work and/or materials, unless otherwise directed by Addendum. Offeror assumes responsibility for any patent ambiguity in the Solicitation that Offeror does not bring to the State's attention.

IV. DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations may be used within the Solicitation document.

AGENCY SPECIFIC TERM CONTRACT: A contract generally intended to cover all normal requirements for a commodity for a specified period of time based on estimated quantities for a single entity.

ADDENDUM: a document issued to supplement or modify the original Solicitation document. Addenda may be issued following a pre-bid/pre-proposal conference or as a result of a specification or work scope changes to the Solicitation.

BAFO: Best and Final Offer, submitted by a Vendor to alter its initial bid, made in response to a request by the issuing agency.

BUYER: The employee of the State or Other Eligible Entity that places an order with the Vendor.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Any of the fifty-eight (58) public North Carolina Community Colleges.

CONTRACT: A contract resulting from or arising out of Vendor responses to this Solicitation.

CONTRACT LEAD: Representative of the agency identified on the first page of the Solicitation document who will correspond with potential Vendors concerning Solicitation issues, will contract with the Vendor providing the best offer to the State, and is the individual who will administer the Contract for the State.

E-PROCUREMENT SERVICES: The program, system, and associated services through which the
State conducts electronic procurement.

**FOB-DESTINATION:** Title changes hand from Vendor to purchaser at the destination point of the shipment; Vendor owns the commodity in transit and files any claims. Vendor pays all freight and any related transportation charges. A Solicitation may request that a Vendor separately identify freight charges in its bid, but no amount or charge not included as part of the total bid price will be paid.

**HUB:** Historically Underutilized Business [https://ncadmin.nc.gov/businesses/hub](https://ncadmin.nc.gov/businesses/hub)

**IFB:** Invitation for Bids (a type of Solicitation document)

**IPS:** Interactive Purchasing Service

**LOT:** A grouping of similar products within this Solicitation document.

**OFFER:** the bid or proposal submitted in response this Solicitation. The terms Bid and Proposal are used interchangeably with the term Offer.

**OFFEROR:** the single legal entity submitting the Offer. The term Bidder is used interchangeably with the term Offeror. See bidding provisions entitled Signing Your Offer and Bid/Proposal As Offer To Contract.

**ON-TIME DELIVERY:** The delivery of all items within a single order to the receiving point designated by the ordering entity within the delivery time required.

**QUALIFIED BID/PROPOSAL:** A responsive bid submitted by a responsible Vendor.

**RESPONSIBLE:** Refers to a Vendor who demonstrates in its Offer that it has the capability to perform the requirements of the Solicitation.

**RESPONSIVE:** Refers to an Offer that conforms to the Requirements of the Solicitation in all respects to be considered by the State for award.

**RFI:** Request for Information (an information gathering tool that does not result in a contract)

**RFP:** Request for Proposals (a type of Solicitation document)

**RFPQ:** Request for Pre-Qualifications (a type of Solicitation document)

**RFQ:** Request for Quotes (a type of Solicitation document)

**STATE:** The State of North Carolina, including any of its sub-units recognized under North Carolina law.

**STATE AGENCY:** Any of the more than 400 sub-units within the executive branch of the State, including its departments, institutions, boards, commissions, universities, and units of the State.

**STATE DEPARTMENTS:** Department of Administration, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Commerce, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Information Technology, Department of Insurance, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, Department of Public Instruction, Department of Public Safety, Department of Revenue, Department of State Treasurer, Office of the Secretary of the State, Department of Transportation, Wildlife Resources Commission, Office of Budget and Management, Office of the Governor, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Office of The State Auditor, Office of the State Controller.

**VENDOR:** The supplier, bidder, proposer, company, firm, corporation, partnership, individual or other entity submitting a response to a Solicitation document. Following award of a contract, the term refers to an entity receiving such an award.

**WORK:** All labor, materials, equipment, services, or property of any type, provided or to be provided by the Contractor to fulfill the Contractor's obligations under the Contract.

**YOU and YOUR:** Offeror.

V. **INTERPRETATION OF TERMS AND PHRASES**

The Solicitation document serves to advise potential Vendors of the parameters of the solution being...
sought by the State. The use of phrases such as "shall," "must," and "requirements" are intended to create enforceable contract conditions. In determining whether bids should be evaluated or rejected, the State will take into consideration the degree to which Vendors have proposed or failed to propose solutions that will satisfy the State's needs as described in the Solicitation. Except as specifically stated in the Solicitation, no one requirement shall automatically disqualify a Vendor from consideration. However, failure to comply with any single requirement, if determined to be essential under the circumstances then existing, may result in the State exercising its discretion to reject a bid in its entirety.

VI. BID SUBMISSION

1. VENDOR’S REPRESENTATIVE: Each Vendor shall submit with its bid the name, address, and telephone number of the person(s) with authority to bind the Vendor and answer questions or provide clarification concerning the Vendor's bid.

2. SIGNING YOUR OFFER: Every Offer must be signed by an individual with actual authority to bind the Offeror.
   a) If the Offeror is an individual, the Offer must be signed by that individual. If the Offeror is an individual doing business as a firm, the Offer must be submitted in the firm name, signed by the individual, and state that the individual is doing business as a firm.
   b) If the Offeror is a partnership, the Offer must be submitted in the partnership name, followed by the words by its Partner, and signed by a general partner.
   c) If the Offeror is a corporation, the Offer must be submitted in the corporate name, followed by the signature and title of the person authorized to sign.
   d) An Offer may be submitted by a joint venture involving any combination of individuals, partnerships, or corporations. If the Offeror is a joint venture, the Offer must be submitted in the name of the Joint Venture and signed by every participant in the joint venture in the manner prescribed in paragraphs (a) through (c) above for each type of participant.
   e) If an Offer is signed by an agent, other than as stated in subparagraphs (a) through (d) above, the Offer must state that it has been signed by an Agent. Upon request, Offeror must provide proof of the agent's authorization to bind the principal.

3. EXECUTION: Failure to sign the Execution Page (numbered page 1 of the Solicitation document) in the indicated space may render an Offer nonresponsive, and it may be rejected.

4. STATE OFFICE CLOSINGS: If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal government processes so that Offers cannot be received at the State office designated for receipt of bids by the exact time specified in the Solicitation, the time specified for receipt of Offers will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the Solicitation on the first workday on which normal government processes resume. In lieu of an automatic extension, an Addendum may be issued to reschedule the bid opening. If State offices are closed at the time a pre-bid or pre-proposal conference is scheduled, an Addendum will be issued to reschedule the conference.

5. BID IN ENGLISH and DOLLARS: Offers submitted in response to this Solicitation shall be in the English language and in US dollars, unless otherwise permitted by the Solicitation.

6. LATE BIDS: Late bids, regardless of cause, will not be opened or considered, and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration. It shall be the Vendor’s sole responsibility to ensure delivery at the designated office by the designated time.
   a) Vendor shall bear the risk for late submission due to unintended or unanticipated delay—whether submitted electronically, delivered by hand, U.S. Postal Service, courier, or other delivery service. It is the Vendor’s sole responsibility to ensure that its bid has been received by this Office by the specified time and date of opening. The date and time of submission will be marked on each bid when received, and any bid received after the bid submission deadline will be rejected.
   b) For proposals submitted via U.S. mail, please note that the U.S. Postal Service generally does not deliver mail to a specified street address but to the State’s Mail Service Center. Vendors are cautioned that proposals sent via U.S. Mail, including Express Mail, may not be delivered.
by the Mail Service Center to the agency’s purchasing office on the due date in time to meet
the proposal deadline. All Vendors are urged to take the possibility of delay into account when
submitting a proposal by U.S. Postal Service, courier, or other delivery service.

7. **DETERMINATION OF RESPONSIVENESS:** Any Offer which fails to conform to the material
requirements of the Solicitation may be rejected as nonresponsive. Offers which impose conditions
that modify material requirements of the Solicitation may be rejected. If a fixed price is required,
an Offer will be rejected if the total possible cost to the State cannot be determined. Offerors will
not be given an opportunity to correct any material nonconformity. Any deficiency resulting from a
minor informality may be cured or waived at the sole discretion of the Procurement Officer.

8. **CONTENTS OF OFFER:**
   a) Offers should be complete and carefully worded and should convey all of the information
      requested.
   b) Offers should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise
description of the Offeror’s capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the Solicitation. Emphasis
should be on completeness and clarity of content.
   c) If Your Offer includes any comment over and above the specific information requested in the
      Solicitation, You are to include this information as a separate appendix to Your Offer. Offers
      which include either modifications to any of the Solicitation's contractual requirements or an
      Offeror’s standard terms and conditions may be deemed non-responsive and not considered
      for award at the State’s discretion.

9. **MULTIPLE OFFERS.** If specifically stated in the Solicitation document, Offerors may submit more
than one Offer, provided that each Offer has significant differences other than price. Each separate
Offer must satisfy all Solicitation requirements.

10. **CLARIFICATION:** The State may elect to communicate with You after bid opening for the purpose
of clarifying either Your Offer or the requirements of the Solicitation. Such communications may
be conducted only with Offerors who have submitted an Offer which obviously conforms in all
material aspects to the Solicitation. Clarification of an Offer must be documented in writing and
included with the Offer. Clarifications may not be used to revise an Offer or the Solicitation.

11. **ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION:** The State reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive
any informalities in bids and, unless otherwise specified by the Vendor, to accept any item in the bid.
If either a unit price or an extended price is obviously in error and the other is obviously correct, the
incorrect price will be disregarded. Regardless of error or omission, a Vendor shall not be permitted
to increase its pricing after the deadline for submitting bids.

12. **BASIS FOR REJECTION:** Pursuant to 01 NCAC 05B .0501, the State reserves the right to reject
any and all Offers, in whole or in part, by deeming the Offer unsatisfactory as to quality or quantity,
delivery, price or service offered, non-compliance with the requirements or intent of this Solicitation,
lack of competitiveness, error(s) in specifications or indications that revision would be
advantageous to the State, cancellation or other changes in the intended project or any other
determination that the proposed requirement is no longer needed, limitation or lack of available
funds, circumstances that prevent determination of the best offer, or any other determination that
rejection would be in the best interest of the State.

13. **INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE:** Vendor shall furnish all information
requested in the Solicitation document. Further, if required elsewhere in this bid, each Vendor shall
submit with its bid any sketches, descriptive literature, and/or complete specifications covering the
goods and services offered. Reference to literature submitted with a previous bid or available
elsewhere will not satisfy this provision. Do not submit bid samples or descriptive literature unless
expressly requested. Unsolicited bid samples or descriptive literature will not be examined or
tested, will not be used to determine responsiveness, and will not be deemed to vary any of the
provisions of the Solicitation. Failure comply with these requirements shall constitute sufficient
cause to reject a bid without further consideration.

14. **WITHDRAWAL OF BID OR PROPOSAL:** Proposals submitted electronically may be withdrawn at
anytime prior to the date for bid opening identified on the cover page of this Solicitation document
(or such later date included in an Addendum). Proposals that have been delivered by hand, U.S. Postal Service, courier, or other delivery service may be withdrawn only in writing and if receipt is acknowledged by the office issuing the Solicitation document prior to the time for opening identified on the cover page of the Solicitation document (or such later date included in an Addendum). Written withdrawal request shall be submitted on the Vendor’s letterhead and signed by an official of the Vendor authorized to make such request. Any withdrawal request made after bid opening shall be allowed only for good cause shown and in the sole discretion of the Division of Purchase and Contract.

15. **COST FOR BID OR PROPOSAL PREPARATION:** Any costs incurred by Vendor in preparing or submitting Offers are the Vendor’s sole responsibility.

16. **INSPECTION AT VENDOR’S SITE:** The State reserves the right to inspect, at a reasonable time, the equipment, item, plant, or other facilities of a prospective Vendor prior to Contract award, and during the Contract term as necessary for the State’s determination that such equipment, item, plant, or other facilities conform with the specifications/requirements and are adequate and suitable for the proper and effective performance of the Contract.

17. **RECYCLING AND SOURCE REDUCTION:** It is the policy of the State to encourage and promote the purchase of products with recycled content to the extent economically practicable, and to purchase items which are reusable, refillable, repairable, more durable, and less toxic to the extent that the purchase or use is practicable and cost-effective. We also encourage and promote using minimal packaging and the use of recycled/recyclable products in the packaging of commodities purchased. However, no sacrifice in quality of packaging will be acceptable. The company remains responsible for providing packaging that will adequately protect the commodity and contain it for its intended use. Companies are strongly urged to bring to the attention of purchasers those products or packaging they offer which have recycled content and that are recyclable.

18. **CERTIFICATE TO TRANSACT BUSINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA:** As a condition of Contract award, each out-of-State Vendor that is a corporation, limited-liability company, or limited-liability partnership shall have received, and shall maintain throughout the term of the Contract, a Certificate of Authority to Transact Business in North Carolina from the North Carolina Secretary of State, as required by North Carolina law. A State contract requiring only an isolated transaction completed within a period of six months, and not in the course of a number of repeated transactions of like nature, shall not be considered transacting business in North Carolina and shall not require a Certificate of Authority to Transact Business.

19. **SUSTAINABILITY:** To support the sustainability efforts of the State of North Carolina we solicit Your cooperation in this effort. Pursuant to Executive Order 156 (1999), it is desirable that all responses meet the following:

   a) If paper copies are requested, all copies of the bid are printed double sided. All submittals and copies are printed on recycled paper with a minimum post-consumer content of 30%.

   b) Unless absolutely necessary, all bids and copies should minimize or eliminate use of non-recyclable or non-reusable materials such as plastic report covers, plastic dividers, vinyl sleeves, and GBC binding. Three-ringed binders, glued materials, paper clips, and staples are acceptable.

   c) Materials should be submitted in a format which allows for easy removal, filing and/or recycling of paper and binder materials. Use of oversized paper is strongly discouraged unless necessary for clarity or legibility.

20. **HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES (HUB):** The State is committed to retaining Vendors from diverse backgrounds, and it invites and encourages participation in the procurement process by businesses owned by minorities, women, disabled, disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled. In particular, the State encourages participation by Vendors certified by the State Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses, as well as the use of HUB-certified vendors as subcontractors on State contracts.

21. **RECIPROCAL PREFERENCE:** G.S. 143-59 establishes a reciprocal preference requirement to discourage other states from favoring their own resident Vendors by applying a percentage increase to the price of any bid from a North Carolina resident Vendor. To the extent another state
does so, North Carolina applies the same percentage increase to the bid of a Vendor resident in that state. Residency is determined by a Vendor’s “Principal Place of Business,” defined as that principal place from which the overall trade or business of the Vendor is directed or managed.

22. **INELIGIBLE VENDORS:** As provided in G.S. 147-86.59 and G.S. 147-86.82, the following companies are ineligible to contract with the State of North Carolina or any political subdivision of the State:

   a) any company identified as engaging in investment activities in Iran, as determined by appearing on the Final Divestment List created by the State Treasurer pursuant to G.S. 147-86.58, and

   b) any company identified as engaged in a boycott of Israel as determined by appearing on the List of restricted companies created by the State Treasurer pursuant to G.S. 147-86.81.

   A contract with the State or any of its political subdivisions by any company identified in a) or b) above shall be void *ab initio*.

23. **VALID TAXPAYER INFORMATION:** All persons or entities desiring to do business with the State must provide correct taxpayer information on North Carolina specified forms. The Substitute W-9 and Instructions are here:


24. **VENDOR REGISTRATION AND SOLICITATION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM:** The North Carolina electronic Vendor Portal (eVP) allows Vendors to electronically register free with the State to receive electronic notification of current procurement opportunities available on the Interactive Purchasing System (IPS), as well as notifications of status changes to those Solicitations. Online registration and other purchasing information is available at the following website:


25. The status of a Vendor’s E-Procurement Services account(s) shall be considered a relevant factor in determining whether to approve the award of a Contract resulting from this Solicitation document. Any Vendor with an E-Procurement Services account that is in arrears by 91 days or more at the time of bid opening may be suspended or deactivated, at the State’s discretion, and may be disqualified from further evaluation or consideration.

26. **TABULATIONS:** Bid tabulations can be electronically retrieved at the Interactive Purchasing System (IPS), https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/BidNumberSearch.aspx. Click on the IPS BIDS icon, click on Search for Bid, enter the bid number, and then search. Tabulations will normally be available at this web site not later than one working day after the bid opening. If negotiation is anticipated under 01 NCAC 05B.0503, pricing may not be public until award. Lengthy or complex tabulations may be summarized, with other details not made available on IPS. Requests for additional details or information concerning such tabulations cannot be honored.

27. **NC BIDS:** NC BIDS is an electronic bidding application that allows an agency to receive Vendor responses electronically for specified Solicitations, saving time and money by eliminating the need to print and ship paper proposal packages. Each individual Solicitation document will indicate whether responses must be submitted electronically through NC BIDS or whether paper responses are required. Submissions that do not comply with the stated submission method will be deemed non-responsive. For more information and online training on NC Bids, visit https://ncadmin.nc.gov/about-doa/divisions/purchase-and-contract/nc-bids/nc-bids-vendors.

28. **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:** To the extent permitted by applicable statutes and rules, the State will maintain as confidential trade secrets in bids that the Vendor does not wish disclosed. As a condition to confidential treatment, each page containing trade secret information shall be identified in boldface at the top and bottom as “CONFIDENTIAL” by the Vendor, with specific trade secret information enclosed in boxes, marked in a distinctive color or by similar indication. Cost information shall not be deemed confidential under any circumstances. Regardless of what a Vendor may label as a trade secret, the determination whether it is or is not entitled to protection will be determined in accordance with G.S. 132-1.2. Any material labeled confidential constitutes a representation by the Vendor that it has made a reasonable effort in good faith to determine that such material is, in fact, a trade secret under G.S. 132-1.2. Vendors are urged to limit the marking...
of information as a trade secret or as confidential so far as is possible. If a legal action is brought to require the disclosure of any material so marked confidential, the State will notify Vendor of such action and allow Vendor to defend the confidential status of its information.

29. COMMUNICATIONS BY VENDORS: In submitting its bid, the Vendor agrees not to discuss or otherwise reveal the contents of its bid to any source, government or private, outside of the using or issuing agency until after the award of the Contract or cancellation of this Solicitation. All Vendors are forbidden from having any communications with the using or issuing agency, or any other representative of the State concerning the Solicitation, during the evaluation of the bids (i.e., after the public opening of the bids and before the award of the Contract), unless the State directly contacts the Vendor(s) for purposes of seeking clarification or another reason permitted by the Solicitation. A Vendor shall not: (a) transmit to the issuing and/or using agency any information commenting on the ability or qualifications of any other Vendor to provide the advertised good, equipment, commodity; (b) identify defects, errors and/or omissions in any other Vendor’s bid and/or prices at any time during the procurement process; and/or (c) engage in or attempt any other communication or conduct that could influence the evaluation or award of a Contract related to this Solicitation. Failure to comply with this requirement shall constitute sufficient justification to disqualify a Vendor from a Contract award. Only those communications with the using agency or issuing agency authorized by this Solicitation are permitted.

30. INFORMAL COMMENTS: The State shall not be bound by informal explanations, instructions or information given at any time by anyone on behalf of the State during the competitive process or afteraward. The State is bound only by information provided in writing in this Solicitation document and in formal Addenda.

31. PROTEST PROCEDURES: When a Vendor wishes to protest a contract awarded by the Division of Purchase and Contract or awarded by an agency when the award amount exceeds the agency’s general delegation and the contract is not subject to a special delegation or exemption, a Vendor shall submit a written request addressed to the State Purchasing Officer at: Division of Purchase and Contract, 1305 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1305.

When a Vendor wishes to protest a contract awarded by an agency when the award amount is less than an agency’s general delegation or when the contract is subject to a special delegation or exemption the Vendor shall submit a written request to protest to the purchasing officer of the agency that issued the award.

The protest request must be received in the proper office within thirty (30) consecutive calendar days from the date of the Contract award. Protest letters shall contain specific grounds and reasons for the protest, how the protesting party was harmed by the award made and any documentation providing support for the protesting party’s claims.

Note: Contract award notices are sent only to the Vendor actually awarded the contract, and not to every person or firm responding to a Solicitation. Award notices are posted on IPS at https://www.ips.state.nc.us/ips/. All protests will be handled pursuant to the North Carolina Administrative Code, 01 NCAC 05B .1519.

32. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE: In cases of conflict between specific provisions in this Solicitation or those in any resulting Contract documents, the order of precedence shall be (high to low) (1) any special terms and conditions specific to this Solicitation document, including any negotiated terms, (2) requirements and specifications and administration, (3) North Carolina General Terms and Conditions in North Carolina General Terms And Conditions, (4) Instructions To Vendors, (5) Pricing, and (6) Vendor’s Bid.

33. ADDENDA: Critical updated information may be included in Addenda to the Solicitation. It is important that all Vendors bidding on the Solicitation periodically check for any Addenda that may be issued prior to the bid opening date. All Vendors shall be deemed to have read and understood all information in the Solicitation document and all Addenda thereto. Vendors are also responsible for obtaining and complying with all Addenda and other changes that may be issued concerning the Solicitation.

34. ORAL EXPLANATIONS NON-BINDING: Oral explanations or instructions will not be binding. Any information given a prospective Offeror concerning a Solicitation will be furnished promptly to all Vendors.
other prospective Offerors as an Addendum to the Solicitation if that information is necessary for submitting offers or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to other prospective Offerors. See clause herein entitled “Duty to Inquire.” The State will not identify You in its answer to Your question.

35. **MAXIMUM COMPETITION:** The State seeks to permit the maximum practicable competition. Offerors are urged to advise the State, as soon as possible, regarding any aspect of this procurement, including any aspect of the Solicitation that unnecessarily or inappropriately limits full and open competition. If the State determines that any changes will be made resulting from the questions asked, then such decisions will be communicated in the form of an Addendum.

36. **FIRM OFFER:** Vendor’s bid shall constitute a firm offer. By execution and delivery of a bid in response to a Solicitation, the Vendor agrees that any additional or modified terms and conditions, whether submitted purposefully or inadvertently, shall have no force or effect, and will be disregarded. Any bid that contains language that indicates the bid is non-binding or subject to further negotiation before a contractual document may be signed shall be rejected.
ATTACHMENT B: NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. PERFORMANCE:
   a) It is anticipated that the tasks and duties undertaken by the Vendor under the contract which results from the State solicitation in this matter (Contract) shall include Services, and/or the manufacturing, furnishing, or development of goods and other tangible features or components, as deliverables.
   b) Except as provided herein, and unless otherwise mutually agreed in writing prior to award, any deliverables not subject to an agreed Vendor license and provided by Vendor in performance of this Contract shall be and remain property of the State. During performance, Vendor may provide proprietary components as part of the deliverables that are identified in this Contract. Vendor grants the State a personal, permanent, non-transferable license to use such proprietary components of the deliverables and other functionalities, as provided under this Contract. Any technical and business information owned by Vendor or its suppliers or licensors made accessible or furnished to the State shall be and remain the property of the Vendor or such other party, respectively. Vendor agrees to perform under the Contract in at least the same or similar manner provided to comparable users and customers. The State shall notify the Vendor of any defects or deficiencies in performance or failure of deliverables to conform to the standards and specifications provided in this Contract. Vendor agrees to timely remedy defective performance or any nonconforming deliverables on its own or upon such notice provided by the State.
   c) Vendor has a limited, non-exclusive license to access and use State Data provided to Vendor, but solely for performing its obligations under and during this Agreement and in confidence as further provided for herein or by law.
   d) Vendor or its suppliers, as specified and agreed in the Contract, shall provide support assistance to the State related to all Services performed or other deliverables procured hereunder during the State’s normal business hours. Vendor warrants that its support, customer service, and assistance will be performed at a minimum in accordance with generally accepted and applicable industry standards.
   e) The State may document and take into account in awarding or renewing future procurement contracts the general reputation, performance and performance capabilities of the Vendor under this Contract as provided by G.S. 143-52 and 143-135.9 (a) and (b) (Best Value).

2. DEFAULT AND TERMINATION:
   a) In the event of default by the Vendor, the State may, as provided by NC law, procure goods and services necessary to complete performance hereunder from other sources and hold the Vendor responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby. See, G.S. 25-2-712. In addition, and in the event of default by the Vendor under the Contract, or upon the Vendor filing a petition for bankruptcy or the entering of a judgment of bankruptcy by or against the Vendor, the State may immediately cease doing business with the Vendor, terminate the Contract for cause, and take action to recover relevant damages, and if permitted by applicable law, debar the Vendor from doing future business with the State. See, 01 NCAC 05B.1520.
   b) If, through any cause, Vendor shall fail to fulfill in a timely and proper manner the obligations under the Contract, including, without limitation, in these North Carolina General Terms and Conditions, the State shall have the right to terminate the Contract by giving thirty days written notice to the Vendor and specifying the effective date thereof. In that event, any or all finished or unfinished deliverables that are prepared by the Vendor under the Contract shall, at the option of the State, become the property of the State (and under any applicable Vendor license to the extent necessary for the State to use such property), and the Vendor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any acceptable deliverable completed (or partially completed at the State’s option) as to which such option is exercised. Notwithstanding, Vendor shall not be relieved of liability to the State for damages sustained by the State by virtue of any breach of the Contract, and the State may withhold any payment due the Vendor for the purpose of setoff until such time as the exact amount of damages due the State from such breach can be determined. The State, if insecure as to receiving proper performance or provision of goods deliverables, or if documented Vendor Services performance issues exist, under this Contract, may require at any time a
performance bond or other alternative performance guarantees from a Vendor without expense to the State as provided by applicable law. G.S. 143-52(a); 01 NCAC 05B.1521; G.S. 25-2-609.

c) If this Contract contemplates deliveries or performance over a period of time, the State may terminate this Contract for convenience at any time by providing 60 days’ notice in writing from the State to the Vendor. In that event, any, or all finished or unfinished deliverables prepared by the Vendor under this Contract shall, at the option of the State, become its property, and under any applicable Vendor license to the extent necessary for the State to use such property. If the Contract is terminated by the State for convenience, the State shall pay for those items or Services for which such option is exercised, less any payment or compensation previously made.

3. INTERPRETATION, CONFLICT OF TERMS:

a) The definitions in the Instructions to Vendors in the relevant solicitation for this Contract, and in 01 NCAC 05A.0112 are specifically incorporated herein.

b) If federal funds are involved in the transactions under this Contract, the Vendor shall comply with all applicable state and federal requirements and laws, except where State requirements are more restrictive. See the additional federal requirements included in the “Federal Funds Provisions” section below.

c) “Purchasing Agency” herein is as defined in 01 NCAC 05A.0112, except that if this Contract has been entered into by the NC Department of Administration, Division of Purchase and Contract (P&C) as indicated in the Contract (e.g., a State Term Contract), then P&C will then be a Purchasing Agency for the purposes herein and in the Federal Funds Provisions, below.

d) Contracts made in contravention of General Statutes, Chapter 143, Article 3, and the Rules in 05 NCAC Chapter 5, are void. G.S. 143-58.

e) In cases of conflict between specific provisions in this Contract and any other referenced documents, the Order of Precedence shall be (high to low) (1) any special terms and conditions specific to this Contract, including any negotiated terms; (2) requirements, specifications and administrative terms; (3) these NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS, including the Federal Funds Provisions; (4) Definitions and other provisions in INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS in this solicitation, which is specifically incorporated in this Contract; (5) PRICING, and (6) Vendor’s Bid, to the extent specifically and mutually incorporated into this Contract.

f) In the event of conflict of terms between applicable provisions of the Federal Funds Provisions and the other provisions of these North Carolina General Contract Terms and Conditions, the more restrictive provision will govern.

4. GOVERNMENTAL RESTRICTIONS: In the event any Governmental restrictions are imposed which necessitate alteration of the goods, material, quality, workmanship, or performance of the Services offered, prior to acceptance, it shall be the responsibility of the Vendor to notify the State Contract Lead or Administrator indicated in the Contract at once, in writing, indicating the specific regulation which requires such alterations. The State reserves the right to accept any such alterations, including any price adjustments occasioned thereby, or to cancel the Contract.

5. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS: Any and all payments to the Vendor shall be dependent upon and subject to the availability of funds appropriated or allocated to the agency for the purpose set forth in the Contract.

6. TAXES: Any applicable taxes shall be invoiced as a separate item.

a) G.S. 143-59.1 bars the Secretary of Administration from entering into Contracts with Vendors if the Vendor or its affiliates meet one of the conditions of G.S. 105-164.8(b) and refuses to collect use tax on sales of tangible personal property to purchasers in North Carolina. Conditions under G.S. 105-164.8(b) include: (1) Maintenance of a retail establishment or office, (2) Presence of representatives in the State that solicit sales or transact business on behalf of the Vendor and (3) Systematic exploitation of the market by media-assisted, media-facilitated, or media-solicited means. By execution of the proposal document the Vendor certifies that it and all of its affiliates, if it has affiliates, collect(s) the appropriate taxes.

b) The agency(ies) participating in the Contract are exempt from Federal Taxes, such as excise and transportation. Exemption forms submitted by the Vendor will be executed and returned by the using agency.
c) Prices offered are not to include any personal property taxes, nor any sales or use tax (or fees) unless required by the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

7. SITUS AND GOVERNING LAWS:

a) This Contract is made under and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina, including, without limitation, the relevant provisions of G.S. Chapter 143, Article 3, and the Rules in 01 NCAC Chapter 05, and any applicable successor provisions, without regard to its conflict of laws rules, and within which State all matters, whether sounding in Contract, tort or otherwise, relating to its validity, construction, interpretation and enforcement shall be determined. G.S. 22B-3.

b) Vendor shall comply with all laws, ordinances, codes, rules, regulations, and licensing requirements that are applicable to the conduct of its business and its performance in accordance with the Contract, including those of federal, state, and local agencies having jurisdiction and/or authority, and including, without limitation, the applicable requirements in the Federal Funds Provisions, below.

c) Non-resident Vendor corporations not formed under NC law must be domesticated in the Office of the NC Secretary of State in order to contract with the State of North Carolina. G.S. 55A-15-01.

8. NON-DISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE:

Wholly State Funded Contracts.

a) The Vendor will take affirmative action in complying with all State requirements and laws concerning fair employment and employment of people with disabilities, and concerning the treatment of all employees without regard to discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or disability or rights, such as preserved by Governor Roy Cooper Order E.O. 24 or 25, and will take necessary action to ensure that its internal employee policies and procedures are consistent with Executive Order #82 (Roy Cooper, December 6, 2018), which extends workplace protections and accommodations to pregnant employees.

b) Federal Law, such as the following, applies as provided for therein: Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (PL 88-352), and the regulations issued pursuant thereto (prohibiting discrimination on the basis race, color, national origin and ensuring that individuals are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (codified as amended at 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.) (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex); Titles I, II, III, IV, and V of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (codified as amended at 29 U.S.C. § 794) (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of handicap); the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.) (prohibiting age discrimination); Executive Order 11063 as amended by Executive Order 2259; and Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

Contracts Partially or Wholly Federally Funded.

To the extent federal funding is involved in this procurement, in whole or in part, compliance with the following is required:

c) The Vendor shall comply with all Federal Funds Provisions requirements (below) and not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. The Vendor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following:

Employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Vendor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

d) The Vendor shall, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the
Vendor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin:

e) The Vendor will not discharge or in any other manner discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because such employee or applicant has inquired about, discussed, or disclosed the compensation of the employee or applicant or another employee or applicant. This provision shall not apply to instances in which an employee who has access to the compensation information of other employees or applicants as a part of such employee's essential job functions discloses the compensation of such other employees or applicants to individuals who do not otherwise have access to such information, unless such disclosure is in response to a formal complaint or charge, in furtherance of an investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action, including an investigation conducted by the employer, or is consistent with the Vendor's legal duty to furnish information.

f) The Vendor will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice to be provided advising the said labor union or workers' representatives of the Vendor's commitments under this section and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

g) The Vendor shall comply with all provisions of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and of the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.

h) The Vendor shall furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and by rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and shall permit access to his books, records, and accounts by the administering agency and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.

i) In the event of the Vendor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination clauses of this Contract with any of the said rules, regulations, or orders, this Contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part and the Vendor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts or federally assisted construction Contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and such other sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.

j) The Vendor shall include the portion of the sentence immediately preceding paragraph (a) and the provisions of paragraphs (a) through (g) in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to section 204 of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The Vendor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the administering agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance: Provided, however, that in the event a Vendor (or herein “applicant,” as applicable in context within these Federal Funds Provisions) becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the administering agency, the Vendor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

k) The Vendor further agrees that it shall be bound by the above equal opportunity clause with respect to its own employment practices when it participates in federally assisted construction work: Provided, that if the Vendor so participating is a State or local government, the above equal opportunity clause is not applicable to any agency, instrumentality or subdivision of such government which does not participate in work on or under the Contract.

l) The Vendor agrees that it shall assist and cooperate actively with the administering agency and the Secretary of Labor in obtaining the compliance of Vendors and subcontractors with the equal opportunity clause and the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor, that it shall furnish the administering agency and the Secretary of Labor such information as they may require for the supervision of such compliance, and that it shall otherwise assist the administering agency in the discharge of the agency's primary responsibility for securing compliance.
m) The Vendor further agrees that it shall refrain from entering into any contract or contract modification subject to Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, with a Vendor debarred from, or who has not demonstrated eligibility for, Government Contracts and federally assisted construction contracts pursuant to the Executive Order and will carry out such sanctions and penalties for violation of the equal opportunity clause as may be imposed upon Vendors and subcontractors by the administering agency or the Secretary of Labor pursuant to Part II, Subpart D of the Executive Order. In addition, the Vendor agrees that if it fails or refuses to comply with these undertakings, the administering agency may take any or all of the following actions: Cancel, terminate, or suspend in whole or in part any relevant grant (contract, loan, insurance, guarantee); refrain from extending any further assistance to the Vendor under the program with respect to which the failure or refund occurred until satisfactory assurance of future compliance has been received from such Vendor; and refer the case to the Department of Justice for appropriate legal proceedings.

9. **PAYMENT TERMS:** Payment terms are net not later than 30 days after receipt of a correct invoice or acceptance of goods, whichever is later. The Procuring Agency is responsible for all payments to the Vendor under the Contract. Payment by some agencies may be made by procurement card. If the Vendor accepts Visa, MasterCard, etc., from other customers, it shall accept procurement card payment by the State under the terms provided for the procurement card. 01 NCAC 05B.1523. If payment is made by procurement card, then payment for amounts then due may be processed immediately by the Vendor.

The State does not agree in advance, in contract, pursuant to Constitutional limitations, to pay costs such as interest, late fees, penalties or attorney’s fees. This Contract will not be construed as an agreement by the State to pay such costs and will be paid only as ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

10. **CONDITION AND PACKAGING:** Unless otherwise expressly provided by special terms and condition specifications in the Contract or by express, specific federal law or rule, it is understood and agreed that any item offered or shipped has not been sold or used for any purpose, is newly manufactured, and shall be in first class condition. All containers/packaging shall be suitable for handling, storage, or shipment.

11. **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WARRANTY AND INDEMNITY:** Vendor shall hold and save the State, its officers, agents, and employees, harmless from liability of any kind, including costs and expenses, resulting from infringement of the rights of any third party in any Services or copyrighted material, patented or patent-pending invention, article, device, or appliance delivered in connection with the Contract.
   a) Vendor warrants to the best of its knowledge that:
      1. Performance under the Contract does not infringe upon any intellectual property rights of any third party; and
      2. There are no actual or threatened actions arising from, or alleged under, any intellectual property rights of any third party.
   b) Should any deliverables supplied by Vendor become the subject of a claim of infringement of a patent, copyright, trademark or a trade secret in the United States, the Vendor, shall at its own expense, either procure for the State the right to continue using the deliverables, or replace or modify the same to become non-infringing. If neither of these options can reasonably be taken in Vendor’s judgment, or if further use shall be prevented by injunction, the Vendor agrees to cease provision of any affected deliverables and refund any sums the State has paid Vendor for such deliverables and make every reasonable effort to assist the State in procuring substitute deliverables. If, in the sole opinion of the State, the cessation of use by the State of any such deliverables due to infringement issues makes the retention of other items acquired from the Vendor under this Agreement impractical, the State shall then have the option of terminating the Agreement, or applicable portions thereof, without penalty or termination charge; and Vendor agrees to refund any sums the State paid for unused Services or other deliverables.
   c) The Vendor, at its own expense, shall defend any action brought against the State to the extent that such action is based upon a claim that the deliverables supplied by the Vendor, their use or operation, infringe on a patent, copyright, trademark or violate a trade secret in the United States. The Vendor shall pay those costs and damages finally awarded or agreed in a settlement against
the State in any such action. Such defense and payment shall be conditioned on the following:

1. That the Vendor shall be notified within a reasonable time in writing by the State of any such claim; and

2. That the Vendor shall have the sole control of the defense of any action on such claim and all negotiations for its settlement or compromise provided, however, that the State shall have the option to participate in such action at its own expense.

d) Vendor will not be required to defend or indemnify the State to the extent any claim by a third party against the State for infringement or misappropriation results solely from the State’s material alteration of any Vendor-branded deliverables or Services, or from the continued use of the Services or other deliverables after receiving written notice from the Vendor of the claimed infringement.

12. ADVERTISING: Vendor agrees not to use the existence of the Contract or the name of the State of North Carolina as part of any commercial advertising or marketing of products or Services except as provided in 01 NCAC 05B.1516. A Vendor may inquire whether the State is willing to be included on a listing of its existing customers.

13. ACCESS TO PERSONS AND RECORDS: During, and after the term hereof during the relevant period required for retention of records by State law (G.S. 121-5, 132-1 et seq., typically five years), the State Auditor and any Purchasing Agency’s internal auditors shall have access to persons and records related to the Contract to verify accounts and data affecting fees or performance under the Contract, as provided in G.S. 143-49(9). However, if any audit, litigation, or other action arising out of or related in any way to this project is commenced before the end of such retention of records period, the records shall be retained for one (1) year after all issues arising out of the action are finally resolved or until the end of the record retentions period, whichever is later.

14. ASSIGNMENT OR DELEGATION OF DUTIES:

a) As a convenience to the Vendor, the State may include any person or entity designated by the Vendor in writing as a joint payee on the Vendor’s payment check. In no event shall such approval and action obligate the State to anyone other than the Vendor.

b) If Vendor requests any assignment, or delegation of duties, the Vendor shall remain responsible for fulfillment of all Contract obligations. Upon written request, the State may, in its unfettered discretion, approve an assignment or delegation to another responsible entity acceptable to the State, such as the surviving entity of a merger, acquisition or a corporate reorganization if made as part of the transfer of all or substantially all of the Vendor’s assets. 01 NCAC 05B.1507. Any purported assignment or delegation made in violation of this provision shall be void and a material breach of the Contract. G.S. 143-58.

15. INSURANCE: This section provides minimum insurance coverage rates that are applicable to most moderate risk solicitations. Agency Risk Analysis will determine if higher insurance coverage amounts are needed based on the likelihood and severity of exposure to the State. The analysis is documented in writing in the official file and considers the following non-exclusive factors:

1. Potential for damage to State property or property of a third party,
2. Potential for bodily injury to State employees or third parties,
3. Whether Vendor will transport State property, clients, or employees,
4. Use of a vehicle to accomplish the work or to travel to or from State locations,
5. Anticipated physical contacts of the Vendor with the State,
6. Anticipated number and activity of Vendor personnel within the State, and
7. Any other unique considerations that could result in harm, bodily injury, or property damage.

The Purchasing Agency has specified elsewhere in this Contract any increase in the minimum insurance coverage requirements below if the risk from the above factors is high.
a) REQUIREMENTS - Providing and maintaining adequate insurance coverage is a material obligation of the Vendor and is of the essence of the Contract. All such insurance shall meet all laws of the State of North Carolina. Such insurance coverage shall be obtained from companies that are authorized to provide such coverage and that are authorized by the NC Commissioner of Insurance to do business in North Carolina. The Vendor shall at all times comply with the terms of such insurance policies, and all requirements of the insurer under any such insurance policies, except as they may conflict with existing North Carolina laws or the Contract. The limits of coverage under each insurance policy maintained by the Vendor shall not be interpreted as limiting the Vendor’s liability and obligations or the indemnification requirements under the Contract. As provided above, a State agency is authorized, upon written evaluation and substantiation in the official file of the significant risk of bodily injury and/or property or other damage in the contract, to require and enforce higher coverage limits to mitigate the potential risk of liability to the State.

b) COVERAGE - During the term of the Contract, the Vendor at its sole cost and expense shall provide commercial insurance of such type and with such terms and limits as may be reasonably associated with the Contract. At a minimum, the Vendor shall provide and maintain the following coverage and limits, subject to higher requirements by an agency after the risk analysis indicated above:

1. For Small Purchases as defined under North Carolina Administrative Code 01 NCAC 05A.0112 (35) and 05B.0301 (1), the minimum applicable insurance requirements for Worker’s Compensation and Automobile Liability will apply as required by North Carolina law. The Purchasing Agency may require Commercial General Liability coverage consistent with the assessed risks involved in the procurement.

2. For Contracts valued in excess of the Small Purchase threshold, but up to $1,000,000.00 the following limits shall apply:
   i. Worker’s Compensation - The Vendor shall provide and maintain Worker’s Compensation Insurance, as may be required by the laws of North Carolina, as well as employer’s liability coverage, with minimum limits of $250,000.00, covering all of Vendor’s employees who are engaged in any work under the Contract in North Carolina. If any work is sub-Contracted, the Vendor shall require the sub-contractor to provide the same coverage for any of its employees engaged in any work under the Contract within the State.
   
   ii. Commercial General Liability - General Liability Coverage on a Comprehensive Broad Form on an occurrence basis in the minimum amount of $500,000.00 Combined Single Limit. Defense costs shall be in excess of the limit of liability.
   
   iii. Automobile - Automobile Liability Insurance, to include liability coverage covering all owned, hired, and non-owned vehicles, used within North Carolina in connection with the Contract. The minimum combined single limit shall be $250,000.00 bodily injury and property damage; $250,000.00 uninsured/under insured motorist; and $2,500.00 medical payment.

3. For Contracts valued in excess of $1,000,000.00 the following limits shall apply:
   i. Worker’s Compensation - The Vendor shall provide and maintain Worker’s Compensation Insurance, as may be required by the laws of North Carolina, as well as employer’s liability coverage, with minimum limits of $500,000.00, covering all of Vendor’s employees who are engaged in any work under the Contract in North Carolina. If any work is sub-Contracted, the Vendor shall require the sub-contractor to provide the same coverage for any of its employees engaged in any work under the Contract within the State.
   
   ii. Commercial General Liability - General Liability Coverage on a Comprehensive Broad Form on an occurrence basis in the minimum amount of $1,000,000.00 Combined Single Limit. Defense costs shall be in excess of the limit of liability.
   
   iii. Automobile - Automobile Liability Insurance, to include liability coverage covering all owned, hired, and non-owned vehicles, used within North Carolina in connection with the Contract. The minimum combined single limit shall be $500,000.00 bodily injury and property damage; $500,000.00 uninsured/under insured motorist; and $5,000.00 medical payment.
16. GENERAL INDEMNITY:

a) The Vendor shall indemnify, defend and hold and save the State, its officers, agents, and employees, harmless from liability of any kind, including all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any other person, firm, or corporation furnishing or supplying work, Services, materials, or supplies in connection with the performance of the Contract, and also from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any person, firm, or corporation that may be injured or damaged by the Vendor in the performance of the Contract that are attributable to the negligence or intentionally tortious acts of the Vendor, provided that the Vendor is notified in writing within 30 days from the date that the State has knowledge of such claims.

b) The Vendor, at its own expense shall defend any action brought against the State, under this section. The Vendor shall have the sole control of the defense of any action on such claim and all negotiations for its settlement or compromise, provided, however, that the State shall have the option to participate in such action at its own expense.

c) The Vendor represents and warrants that it shall make no claim of any kind or nature against the State’s agents who are involved in the delivery or processing of Vendor deliverables or Services as part of this Contract with the State.

d) As part of this provision for General indemnity, if federal funds are involved in this procurement, the Vendor warrants that it will comply with all relevant and applicable federal requirements and laws, and will indemnify, defend, and hold and save the State harmless from any claims or losses resulting to the State from the Vendor’s noncompliance with such federal requirements or law in the performance of this Contract. The representations and warranties in the preceding two sentences shall survive the termination or expiration of the Contract.

e) The State does not participate in indemnification due to Constitutional restrictions, or arbitration, which effectively and unacceptably waives jury trial. See, G.S. 22B-3,-10.

17. ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT: (G.S. 143-48.3)

GENERALLY APPLICABLE TO GOODS AND SERVICES PURCHASES:

a) Purchasing shall be conducted through the Statewide E-Procurement Service. The State’s third-party agent shall serve as the Supplier Manager for this E-Procurement Service. The Vendor shall register for the Statewide E-Procurement Service within two (2) business days of notification of award in order to receive an electronic purchase order resulting from award of this Contract.

b) The Supplier Manager will capture an order from a State approved user, including the shipping and payment information, and submit the order in accordance with E-Procurement Service procedures. Subsequently, the Supplier Manager will send those orders to the appropriate Vendor on State Contract. The State or State-approved user, not the Supplier Manager, shall be responsible for the solicitation, bids received, evaluation of bids received, award of Contract, and the payment for goods delivered.

c) Vendor shall at all times maintain the confidentiality of its username and password for the Statewide E-Procurement Services. Vendor shall be responsible for all activity and all charges by its agents or employees. Vendor agrees not to permit a third party to use its E-Procurement Services account. If there is a breach of security through the Vendor’s account, Vendor shall immediately change its password and notify the Supplier Manager of the security breach by email. Vendor shall cooperate with the State and the Supplier Manager to mitigate and correct any security breach.

E-PROCUREMENT FEES – APPLICABLE ONLY TO GOODS PURCHASES

d) THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER(S) SHALL PAY A TRANSACTION FEE, CURRENTLY 1.75% (.0175), ON THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT (EXCLUDING SALES TAXES) FOR THE AMOUNT OF ANY GOODS INCLUDED ON EACH PURCHASE ORDER ISSUED THROUGH THE STATEWIDE E-PROCUREMENT SERVICE (OR ANY OFFICIAL REPLACEMENT SERVICE). G.S. 66-58.12; See, NC E-Procurement Terms of Use. This applies to all purchase orders, regardless of the quantity or dollar amount of the purchase order. The transaction fee shall not be stated or included as a separate item on the invoice. Vendor will receive a credit for transaction fees they paid for the purchase of any item(s) if an item(s) is returned through no fault of the Vendor. Transaction fees are non-refundable when an item is rejected and returned, or declined, due to the Vendor’s failure to perform or comply with specifications or requirements of the Contract.

e) Vendor or its Authorized Reseller, as applicable, will be invoiced monthly for the State’s transaction fee by the E-Procurement Supplier Manager (Supplier Manager), based on a) purchase activity for the prior month, or b) purchases
Bid Number: 351554882  
Vendor: ____________________________________

for which the supplier invoice has been paid. Unless the Supplier Manager receives written notice from the Vendor identifying with specificity any errors in an invoice for the transaction fee within thirty (30) days of the receipt of invoice, such invoice shall be deemed to be correct, and Vendor shall have waived its right to later dispute the accuracy and completeness of the invoice. Payment of the transaction fee by the Vendor is due to the account designated by the State within thirty (30) days after receipt of the invoice for the transaction fee, or it shall be considered a material breach of Contract. Pursuant to G.S. 147-86.23, the service will charge 1) interest on past due balances at the rate set by the Secretary of Revenue pursuant to G.S. 105-241.21 as of the date the balances are past due, and 2) late payment penalties, currently ten percent (10%) of the account receivable. No interest shall be charged on disputed and overdue amounts to the extent the State agrees to reduce or adjust the amount in dispute. The Supplier Manager shall provide, whenever reasonably requested by the Vendor in writing (including electronic documents), supporting documentation from the E-Procurement Service that accounts for the amount of the invoice.

18. SUBCONTRACTING: Performance under the Contract by the Vendor shall not be subcontracted without prior written approval of the State’s assigned Contract Lead. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, acceptance of a Vendor’s proposal shall include approval to use the subcontractor(s) that have been specified therein.

19. CONFIDENTIALITY: Vendor information that cannot be shown to be, e.g., a trade secret, may be subject to public disclosure under the terms of the State Public Records Act (SPRA), beginning at G.S. 132.1. Blanket assertions of confidentiality are not favored, but confidentiality of specific material meeting one or more exceptions in the SPRA will be honored. Vendors are notified that if the confidentiality of material is challenged by other parties, the Vendor has the responsibility of defending the assertion of confidentiality. G.S. 143-52(a).

20. CARE OF STATE DATA AND PROPERTY: Any State property, information, data, instruments, documents, studies, or reports given to or prepared or assembled by or provided to the Vendor under the Contract shall be kept as confidential, used only for the purpose(s) required to perform the Contract and not divulged or made available to any individual or organization without the prior written approval of the State.

The State’s data and property in the hands of the Vendor shall be protected from unauthorized disclosure, loss, damage, destruction by a natural event or another eventuality. The Vendor agrees to reimburse the State for loss or damage of State property while in Vendor’s custody. Such State Data shall be returned to the State in a form acceptable to the State upon the termination or expiration of this Agreement.

The Vendor shall notify the State of any security breaches within 24 hours as required by G.S. 143B-1379. For further information, see, G.S. 75-60 et seq. Notice is given to the Vendor that the NC Department of Information Technology (DIT) has requirements relating to the security of the State network, and rules relating to the use of the State network, IT software and equipment, that the Vendor must comply with, as applicable. See, e.g., G.S. 143B-1376.

21. OUTSOURCING: Any Vendor or subcontractor providing call or contact center services to the State of North Carolina or any of its agencies shall disclose to inbound callers the location from which the call center contact services are being provided.

If, after award of a Contract, and consistent with any applicable NC DIT security provisions, the Contractor wishes to relocate or outsource any portion of performance to a location outside the United States, or to contract with a subcontractor for any such performance, which subcontractor and nature of the work has not previously been disclosed to the State in writing, prior written approval must be obtained from the State Purchasing Agency. Vendor shall give notice to the Purchasing Agency of any relocation of the Vendor, employees of the Vendor, subcontractors of the Vendor, or other persons providing performance under a State Contract to a location outside of the United States. See, G.S. 143-59.4.

22. ENTIRE AGREEMENT: The Contract (including any documents mutually incorporated specifically therein) resulting from a relevant solicitation represents the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior oral or written statements or agreements. All promises, requirements, terms, conditions, provisions, representations, guarantees, and warranties contained herein shall survive the Contract expiration or termination date unless specifically provided otherwise herein, or unless superseded by applicable Federal or State statutes of limitation.

23. ELECTRONIC RECORDS: The State will digitize all Vendor responses to the relevant solicitation, if not received electronically, as well as any awarded Contract together with associated procurement-related documents. These electronic copies shall constitute a preservation record and shall serve as the official record of this procurement with the same force and effect as the original written documents comprising such record. Any official electronic copy, printout, or other output readable by sight shown to reflect such record accurately shall constitute an "original."

24. AMENDMENTS: This Contract may be amended only by a written amendment duly executed by the State and the Vendor.

25. NO WAIVER: Notwithstanding any other language or provision in the Contract or in any Vendor-supplied material, nothing herein is intended nor shall be interpreted as a waiver of any right or remedy otherwise available to the State under applicable law. The waiver by the State of any right or remedy on any one occasion or instance shall not constitute or be interpreted as
26. **FORCE MAJEURE:** Neither party shall be deemed to be in default of its obligations hereunder if and so long as it is prevented from performing such obligations as a result of events beyond its reasonable control, including, without limitation, fire, power failures, any act of war, hostile foreign action, nuclear explosion, riot, strikes or failures or refusals to perform under subcontracts, civil insurrection, earthquake, hurricane, tornado, other catastrophic epidemic or pandemic, natural event or Act of God.

27. **SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY:** Notwithstanding any other term or provision in the Contract, nothing herein intended nor shall be interpreted as waiving any claim or defense based on the principle of sovereign immunity or other State or federal constitutional provision or principle that otherwise would be available to the State under applicable law.

28. **FEDERAL FUNDS PROVISIONS:**

   Where federal funds are utilized in connection with this procurement, and to the extent applicable and absent stricter or controlling State provisions, the following federal provisions (in addition to the North Carolina General Terms and Conditions above) may apply consistent with Uniform Guidance in 2 C.F.R. § 200.326 and 2 C.F.R. Part 200, and its Appendix II. Relevant federal authorities may require additional provisions depending on the scope and context of the Contract. Failure or unwillingness of the Vendor to continually meet any of these requirements, as applicable, may result in Contract termination.

   Any links to websites not maintained by the State are provided as a courtesy. The State does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy of the hyperlink, or the information contained therein.

   a) **No governmental non-competes.** Vendor shall not impose or enforce any non-competition agreement upon the employees included in Vendor’s bid that would prevent those employees from accepting any offer of employment from the State of North Carolina outside of the first Term of the Contract. By executing this Contract, the Vendor affirms this condition. This affirmation is a material condition for the State’s award of any work under this Contract.

   b) **Program Monitoring.** Vendor agrees to assist and cooperate with the Federal grantor or funding agency and the relevant Purchasing Agency or their duly designated representatives in the monitoring of the project or projects to which this Contract relates, and to provide in form and manner approved by the Purchasing Agency such monitoring reports, progress reports, and the like as maybe required and to provide such reports at the times specified.

   c) **Remedies and Termination.** For purposes of this section the State Remedies and Termination provisions above apply as written.

   d) **Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 3701-3708).**

Compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

1. **Overtime requirements.** No Vendor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the Contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which he or she is employed on such work to work in excess of forty hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek.

2. **Violation; liability for unpaid wages; liquidated damages.** In the event of any violation of the clause set forth in 29 C.F.R. §5.5(b)(1) the Vendor and any subcontractor responsible therefor shall be liable for the unpaid wages. In addition, such Vendor and subcontractor shall be liable to the United States (in the case of work done under contract for the District of Columbia or a territory, to such District or to such territory), for liquidated damages. Such liquidated damages shall be computed with respect to each individual laborer or mechanic, including watchmen and guards, employed in violation of the clause set forth in 29 C.F.R. §5.5(b)(1), in the sum of $26 for each calendar day on which such individual was required or permitted to work in excess of the standard workweek of forty hours without payment of the overtime wages required by the clause set forth in 29 C.F.R. §5.5(b)(1).

3. **Withholding for unpaid wages and liquidated damages.** The Purchasing Agency shall upon its own action or upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor withhold or cause to be withheld, from any moneys payable on account of work performed by the Vendor or subcontractor under any such contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime Vendor, or any other federally-assisted contract subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, which is held by the same prime Vendor, such sums as may be determined to be necessary to satisfy any liabilities of such Vendor or subcontractor for unpaid wages and liquidated damages as provided in the clause set forth in 29 C.F.R. §5.5(b)(2).
4. SubContracts. The Vendor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses set forth in paragraph (b)(1) through (4) of 29 C.F.R. §5.5 and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime Vendor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with the clauses set forth in 29 C.F.R. §5.5(b)(2) through (4).

e) CLEAN AIR ACT AND THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT.

Clean Air Act

1. The Vendor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.

2. The Vendor agrees to report each violation to the Purchasing Agency and understands and agrees that the Purchasing Agency will, in turn, report each violation as required to assure notification to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.

3. The Vendor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding $150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance.

Federal Water Pollution Control Act

1. The Vendor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.

2. The Vendor agrees to report each violation to the Purchasing Agency and understands and agrees that the Purchasing Agency will, in turn, report each violation as required to assure notification to the federal agency providing funds hereunder, and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.

3. The Vendor agrees that these requirements will be included in each subcontract exceeding $150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance.

f) Debarment and Suspension.

1. This Contract, if federal funding is used, is a covered transaction for purposes of 2 C.F.R. pt. 180 and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000. As such, the Vendor is required to verify that none of the Vendor’s principals (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.995) or its affiliates (defined at 2 C.F.R. §180.905) are excluded (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.940) or disqualified (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.935).

2. The Vendor must comply with 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C, and must include a requirement to comply with these regulations in any lower tier covered transaction it enters into.

3. This certification is a material representation of fact relied upon by a federal agency providing federal funds herein and the Purchasing Agency. If it is later determined that the Vendor did not comply with 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C, in addition to remedies available to federal agency providing federal funds herein and the Purchasing Agency, the Federal Government may pursue available remedies, including but not limited to suspension and/or debarment.

4. The Vendor agrees to comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C while this offer is valid and throughout the period of the Contract resulting from a relevant solicitation herein. The Vendor further agrees to include a provision requiring such compliance in its lower tier covered transactions.


To the extent applicable, Vendors that apply or bid for an award of $100,000 or more shall file therequired certification. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal Contract, grant, or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier shall also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the recipient who in turn will forward the certification(s) to the awarding agency.

Required Certification. If applicable, Vendors must sign and submit to the Purchasing Agency the certification. See the latest version of “Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements” found at https://ncadmin.nc.gov/documents/vendor-forms.

h) Procurement of Recovered Materials.
1. Unless specified otherwise in the Contract, in the performance of this Contract, the Vendor shall make maximum use of products containing recovered materials that are EPA-designated items unless the product cannot be acquired:
   • Competitively within a timeframe providing for compliance with the Contract performance schedule;
   • Meeting Contract performance requirements; or
   • At a reasonable price.

2. Information about this requirement, along with the list of EPA-designated items, is available at EPA’s Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines web site: https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program

3. The Vendor also agrees to comply with all other applicable requirements of Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

i) Access to Records. In addition to the North Carolina General Contract Terms & Conditions section entitled “ACCESS TO PERSONS AND RECORDS” included in this Contract, the following access to records requirements apply to this Contract:

   1. The Vendor agrees to provide the Purchasing Agency, the Administrator of the federal agency providing funds hereunder, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their authorized representatives access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Vendor which are directly pertinent to this Contract for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions.

   2. The Vendor agrees to permit any of the foregoing parties to reproduce by any means whatsoever or to copy excerpts and transcriptions as reasonably needed.

   3. The Vendor agrees to provide the Administrator of the federal agency providing funds hereunder or his authorized representative access to construction or other work sites pertaining to the work being completed under the Contract.

   4. In compliance with the Disaster Recovery Act of 2018, the Purchasing Agency and the Vendor acknowledge and agree that no language in this Contract is intended to prohibit audits or internal reviews by the Administrator of the federal agency providing funds hereunder or the Comptroller General of the United States.

j) Modifications to Contract. Modifications to the Contract are governed by the North Carolina General Contract Terms & Conditions section entitled “AMENDMENTS,” except as approval and signature by any federal official may also be required.

k) Records Retention. All records required to be kept on the project shall be maintained for at least five (5) years after final payments and until all other pending matters under the grant for this project have been closed. However, if any audit, litigation, or other action arising out of or related in any way to this project is commenced before the end of the five (5) year period, the records shall be retained for one (1) year after all issues arising out of the action are finally resolved or until the end of the five (5) year period, whichever is later.

l) Energy Efficiency. All participants in the projects funded hereby shall recognize mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency, which are contained in the state energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (PL 94-163).

m) Program Fraud and False or Fraudulent Statements or Related Acts. Vendor acknowledges that 31 U.S.C. Chapter 38 (Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements) applies to its actions pertaining to the Contract.

n) No Obligation by Federal Government. The Federal Government is not a party to this Contract and is not subject to any obligations or liabilities to the non-Federal entity, Vendor, or any other party pertaining to any matter resulting from the Contract.

o) Compliance with Federal Law, Regulations, and Executive Orders. This is an acknowledgement that federal financial assistance will be used to fund all or a portion of the Contract. The Vendor will comply with all applicable Federal law, regulations, executive orders, the policies of the federal agency(ies) providing funding, procedures, and directives.

p) Federal Seals, Logos, and Flags. In addition to the prohibitions of the North Carolina General Contract Terms & Conditions section entitled “ADVERTISING,” the Vendor shall not use the seal(s), logos, crests, or reproductions of flags of a federal agency providing funding herein, or likenesses of federal agency officials without
q) **System for Awards Management.** Vendor shall be responsible to ensure that it has checked the federal System for Awards Management (SAM) [https://www.sam.gov/SAM/](https://www.sam.gov/SAM/) and the State Debarred Vendors Listing, [https://ncadmin.nc.gov/documents/nc-debarred-vendors](https://ncadmin.nc.gov/documents/nc-debarred-vendors) to verify that Contractors or sub-Recipients have not been suspended or debarred from doing business with federal or State government.
ATTACHMENT C: HUB SUPPLEMENTAL VENDOR INFORMATION

Solicitation #: ___________________
Vendor Name: _____________________

Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) consist of minority, women, and disabled business firms that are at least fifty-one percent owned and operated by an individual(s) from one of these categories. Also included in this category are disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled.

Pursuant to G.S. 143B-1361(a), 143-48 and 143-128.4, the State invites and encourages participation in this procurement process by businesses owned by minorities, women, the disable, disabled business enterprises, and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled. This includes utilizing individual(s) from these categories as subcontractors to perform the functions required in this Solicitation.

The Vendor shall respond to questions below, as applicable.

PART I: HUB CERTIFICATION

Is Vendor a NC-certified HUB entity? □ Yes □ No
If yes, provide Vendor #: ______________
If no, does Vendor qualify for certification as HUB? □ Yes □ No

Vendors that check “yes” will be referred to the HUB Office for assistance in acquiring certification.

PART II: PROCUREMENT OF GOODS - SUPPLIERS

For Goods procurements, are you using Tier 2 suppliers? □ Yes □ No
If yes, then provide the following information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CompanyName</th>
<th>Company Address</th>
<th>Website Address</th>
<th>ContactName</th>
<th>ContactEmail</th>
<th>ContactPhone</th>
<th>NC HUB certified?</th>
<th>Percent of total bid price</th>
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Ver: 11/2021
PART III: PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES - SUBCONTRACTORS

For Services procurements, are you using Subcontractors to perform any of the services being procured under this solicitation?  □ Yes  □ No

If yes, then provide the following information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Company Address</th>
<th>Website Address</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
<th>NC HUB certified?</th>
<th>Percent of total bid price</th>
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Need more information?

Questions concerning the completion of this form should be presented during the Q&A period through the process defined in the Solicitation document.

Questions concerning NC HUB certification, contact the North Carolina Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses at 984-236-0130 or huboffice.doa@doa.nc.gov
**ATTACHMENT D: CUSTOMER REFERENCE FORM**

**Solicitation #:** _______________________

**Vendor Name:** _______________________

**Instructions:** Vendor shall use this template to submit three (3) customer references with its offer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Customer Organization:</th>
<th>Customer Reference Name:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Customer Reference Address:</td>
<td>Customer Reference Email:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start Date:</td>
<td>End Date:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explanation of contract, service agreement, or type of products and quantity provided to the organization:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<th>Name of Customer Organization:</th>
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<tr>
<th>Name of Customer Organization:</th>
<th>Customer Reference Name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Customer Reference Address:</td>
<td>Customer Reference Email:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start Date:</td>
<td>End Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanation of contract, service agreement, or type of products and quantity provided to the organization:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ATTACHMENT E: LOCATION OF WORKERS UTILIZED BY VENDOR

Solicitation #: __________________________
Vendor Name: ____________________________

In accordance with NC General Statute G.S. 143-59.4, Vendor shall detail the location(s) at which performance will occur, as well as the manner in which it intends to utilize resources or workers outside of the United States in the performance of The Contract.

Vendor shall complete items 1 and 2 below.

1. Will any work under this Contract be performed outside of the United States? □ YES □ NO
   
   If “YES”:
   
   a) List the location(s) outside of the United States where work under the Contract will be performed by the Vendor, any subcontractors, employees, or any other persons performing work under the Contract.
   
   b) Specify the manner in which the resources or workers will be utilized:

2. Where within the United States will work be performed?

NOTES:

1. The State will evaluate the additional risks, costs, and other factors associated with the utilization of workers outside of the United States prior to making an award.

2. Vendor shall provide notice in writing to the State of the relocation of the Vendor, employees of the Vendor, subcontractors of the Vendor, or other persons performing services under the Contract to a location outside of the United States.

3. All Vendor or subcontractor personnel providing call or contact center services to the State of North Carolina under the Contract shall disclose to inbound callers the location from which the call or contact center services are being provided.
Solicitation #: ________________________
Vendor Name: ________________________

The undersigned hereby certifies that: [check all applicable boxes]

☐ The Vendor is in sound financial condition and, if applicable, has received an unqualified audit opinion for the latest audit of its financial statements.

   Date of latest audit: ________________________ (If no audit within past 18 months, explain reason below.)

☐ The Vendor has no outstanding liabilities, including tax and judgment liens, to the Internal Revenue Service or any other government entity.

☐ The Vendor is current in all amounts due for payments of federal and state taxes and required employment-related contributions and withholdings.

☐ The Vendor is not the subject of any current litigation or findings of noncompliance under federal or state law.

☐ The Vendor has not been the subject of any past or current litigation, findings in any past litigation, or findings of noncompliance under federal or state law that may impact in any way its ability to fulfill the requirements of this Contract.

☐ He or she is authorized to make the foregoing statements on behalf of the Vendor.

Note: This shall constitute a continuing certification and Vendor shall notify the Contract Lead within 30 days of any material change to any of the representations made herein.

If any one or more of the foregoing boxes is NOT checked, Vendor shall explain the reason(s) in the space below. Failure to include an explanation may result in Vendor being deemed non-responsive and its submission rejected in its entirety.

Signature ________________________ Date ________________________

Printed Name ________________________ Title ________________________

[This Certification must be signed by an individual authorized to speak for the Vendor]

*** Failure to Return the Required Attachments May Eliminate Your Response from Further Consideration ***