

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**  
**Purchase of Care Pilot**  
**Contract to Purchase Slots**  
**ISSUED BY Delaware Health & Social Services, Division of Social Services**  
**RFP # HSS-15-029**

**I. Overview**

The State of Delaware Department of Health & Social Services, Division of Social Services, seeks professional services to pilot a new payment arrangement for up to 150 Purchase of Care (POC) eligible children, to pay based on purchasing a slot for a full month rather than to pay based on attendance. This request for proposals (“RFP”) is issued pursuant to 29 Del. C. §§ [6981 and 6982](#).

The proposed schedule of events subject to the RFP is outlined below:

Public Notice	Date: April 17, 2015
Pre-Bid Meeting	Date: April 27, 2015
Deadline for Questions	Date: May 1, 2015
Response to Questions Posted by:	Date: May 8, 2015
Deadline for Receipt of Proposals	Date: June 12, 2015 at 11:00 AM (Local Time)
Estimated Notification of Award	Date: July 15, 2015

Each proposal must be accompanied by a transmittal letter which briefly summarizes the proposing firm’s interest in providing the required professional services. The transmittal letter must also clearly state and justify any exceptions to the requirements of the RFP which the applicant may have taken in presenting the proposal. (Applicant exceptions must also be recorded on Attachment 3). Furthermore, the transmittal letter must attest to the fact that no activity related to this proposal contract will take place outside of the United States. The State of Delaware reserves the right to deny any and all exceptions taken to the RFP requirements.

**MANDATORY PREBID MEETING**

A mandatory pre-bid meeting has been scheduled for April 27, 2015 at 10:00am . **This is a mandatory meeting.** If a Vendor does not attend this meeting, they shall be disqualified and shall not be considered for further evaluation. There will be a 15 minute lateness allowance , vendors arriving more than 15 minutes late will not be allowed to bid but may participate in the pre bid meeting.

The meeting will be held at:  
Herman Holloway Campus  
Main Administration Building  
Room 198 (Lobby)  
1901 N DuPont Hwy  
New Castle DE, 19720

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**II. Scope of Services**

Background

The mission of the Division of Social Services (DSS) is to provide prompt, respectful, and accurate services that promote the potential for self-sufficiency for all Delawareans. DSS administers the child care subsidy program also known as Purchase of Care (POC). In the purchase of care program, licensed and licensed exempt child care providers contract with the Delaware Division of Social Services to provide care for children that the DSS staff assess as eligible and for whom there is a child care authorization. Under this contract arrangement, DSS pays providers an established daily rate based on the type and location of care of care and the age of the child minus a parent co-pay for the days a child attends care. Currently, DSS pays for the care in the month following the month a child attended and after the provider enters attendance for the previous month.

Proposed payment arrangement

With this contracting for slots pilot, DSS proposes a different contractual payment arrangement. DSS will contract with selected providers across the State which are at a Star level 4 or 5. Under this contract, DSS will purchase a child care "slot" or opening and pay for that slot for a full month, for a POC eligible child, at the beginning of each month. In this arrangement, payment will be for a full month rather than be based on daily attendance. The basis of the monthly payment under this contract will be the state's advertised full-time daily rate based on location, type of care, and age of the child minus the parent's copay.

This RFP is seeking a limited number of providers to enter the new contractual arrangement for a limited number of slots. Children who enter a pilot slot will continue to be POC eligible for 12 consecutive months.

Tiered reimbursement is separate from this contract. Please note that the tiered reimbursement payment each month for Star level 4 and 5 is based on actual attendance and will continue to be based on attendance.

Since DSS will only contract for a limited number of slots under this payment arrangement, any provider who already has a POC contract will have two concurrent DSS contracts. Some children will be paid through this new payment arrangement, some children paid by DSS based on attendance, and some children will have parents who pay the full rate (e.g. not subsidized by DSS).

Currently, under the POC program, DSS identifies eligible children and refers them to providers. Also, providers identify potentially eligible children and refer them to DSS to determine eligibility and issue an authorization. DSS expects that same arrangement will continue. Both DSS and the provider will identify potentially eligible children. Only DSS may determine actual eligibility and authorize the child to care.

As part of this arrangement, it will be necessary for the selected provider and DSS to closely collaborate to assure that children remain in care and that a vacant slot is filled as quickly as possible.

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Project Goals

DSS believes that continuity of child care arrangements supports good child outcomes and should be a key goal of the subsidy program. Additionally, reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDF) requires states to establish 12-month eligibility redetermination and to have a process that accounts for fluctuations in earnings or work hours so that child care is not disrupted. By testing this arrangement on a pilot basis, DSS expects to achieve the following:

- Determine the relative cost to the state for paying POC based on a slot arrangement as compared to paying based on attendance.
- Assess the relative advantage to providers to receive a defined monthly payment rather than payment based on the attendance variable.
- Assess if continuous 12 month eligibility encourages continuity of care for both the parent and the provider.
- Determine what engagement strategies work with families to support continuity.
- Determine what provider interventions result in increased daily attendance of POC children

Since the project goals include both continuity of an individual child at a specified facility and also the stabilization of provider income for some percentage of POC children, the arrangement for this contract will be that DSS will pay for slots under this contract monthly. If a slot becomes vacant, DSS will provide full payment for the first partial and one full month. If a slot remains vacant after one full month, DSS will pay 75% of the slot's value. If it continues to remain vacant, DSS will make a final payment equal to 25% of the slot's value. After this, DSS may remove the slot from the contract and assign it elsewhere. Keeping a slot filled is a performance indicator.

Responders to this RFP will identify the number of children, by age, they will contract for under this arrangement. DSS will negotiate the actual number of children in this pilot with selected vendors. In no case will DSS contract for 100% of the children in a single facility. To respond to this RFP, providers will describe how their program will meet the goals of this pilot. To be responsive to this RFP there is a page limit. The page limit is 10 pages in addition to attachments. The response must include the following subsections and answer, at a minimum, the questions posed in each section:

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Describe how the program incorporates family engagement into its child care operation and how it will use family engagement practices for the children targeted by this RFP.

Does the provider choose family engagement as one of its Stars standards?

Propose an active outreach plan to keep POC slots purchased through this contract filled with a POC eligible child. The plan should describe strategies to increase the daily attendance of children in care. The plan should also describe how the provider will demonstrate success with retention, family engagement, and attendance.

Please provide any strategies proposed to keep the child in the same classroom with the same caregiver over time.

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RATES AND CAPACITY

What are the operating hours, and the private rate you currently charge, for children in the specific age groups you want to include in this contract?

Describe the current practices as it relates to the rates POC clients' are charged. For example some providers charge only the POC rate; others also charge a POC Plus rate. If the provider charges some families a POC Plus rate, what percentages of POC families are paying a POC Plus rate?

If the provider charges some families POC Plus, describe willingness to provide a sliding fee scale for POC Plus families. If the provider currently uses or proposes to institute a sliding fee scale rate please describe how the provider will calculate an additional monthly rate in relation to the family's income

Describe, if willing, the intent to increase the number or percentage of POC children the provider normally accepts into its program, including the average number of POC children in care each month and the proposed increase.

QUALITY

Provide verification of the provider's Star level. Describe how the provider achieved the current star level, and what improvement plans are in place to maintain or increase the Star level. Describe what is special that this facility provides to low income families that distinguishes it from other providers.

ASSESSMENT

Describe the current child/family assessment efforts. Describe how the provider will conduct and use assessments for the children and families impacted by this RFP. Is assessment one of the star elections? Describe the provider's willingness to include assessment as one of the Stars elections if it is not a current election.

COLLABORATION

What ideas do you have to make this pilot work?

What best practices might you bring to the pilot?

What is your experience in collaboration?

Describe a past collaboration with a community partner or a state agency. Include your role, your experience, and lessons learned.

Confirm a commitment to:

- Work with the Division of Social Services (DSS) to launch the pilot as the Division of Social Services develops policies & practices that support the pilot arrangement.

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- Update the provider policies, procedures and services to meet the changing requirements dictated by any interim manual processes and emerging system processes developed for this pilot.
- Work with DSS to develop and disseminate client information document(s) for families that explain the advantages of participating in the pilot and the expectations for continuity, attendance, and engagement.

Become a Division of Social Services (DSS) community partner and help families to both apply for and renew DSS benefits including POC on-line. The Community Partner Agreement is Appendix G Include the completed agreement in the RFP response.

Automated Linkage

Contractor must be able to access the required DHSS automated systems such as ASSIST Self Service (AssistSS) and Purchase of Care Portal (POC) via the Internet. The selected contractor is required to supply their staff with computers that are connected to the internet via the contractor's own internet service account. The contractor's internet connection is needed in order to connect the required DHSS systems. Any cost to replace or upgrade PCs or software in order to access the required DHSS systems will be borne by the contractor.

Contractors must be able to access the ASSIST SS, and the POC system via the Internet. The selected contractor will provide a computer(s) on their own Internet service account that provides them access to the internet.

The contractor is responsible to meet State defined remote access requirements as outlined below:

- Contractor is responsible for assigning an IT Technician to support contractor PC issues.
- Contractor must have Internet access. Network Connection: High speed internet connection, actual bandwidth requirements are highly dependent on the number of users sharing the connection.
- The URLs for the ASSIST SS system and the POC system will be [will be provided to selected contractor during the onboarding and access provisioning process.](#)
- Contractor PCs must run Windows 7 and Internet Explorer V 9.0 or greater with compatibility mode disabled and JavaScript/Cookies enabled. PC specifications are listed below.
- Contractor users will be issued a DHSS APPS domain ID and password as well as a DCIS ID and password by DHSS.

Any costs to replace or upgrade PCs or software in order to access DCIS II will be borne by the contractor.

In addition, the Contractor must have the capability of sending and receiving faxes.

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**Hardware/Software specifications for PC**

Memory: 4 GB RAM minimum. 8 GB recommended  
Hard Disk: 250GB SATA Hard Disk Drive.  
CPU Support: 3rd Gen Intel Core i5 Quad Core Processor or greater  
Drive: DVD-ROM drive.  
Display: 1280x1024 or greater  
Keyboard: Standard USB Keyboard  
Pointing Device: USB Optical Mouse  
Operating System: Windows 7 64-Bit  
Browser: Internet Explorer 9 or greater with compatibility mode disabled and JavaScript/Cookies enabled.  
Network Adapter: 10/100 Mbps minimum, 1,000 Mbps recommended

DSS will be launching a new child care information system in November, five months into the pilot.

**III. Required Information**

The following information shall be provided in each proposal in the order listed below. Failure to respond to any request for information within this proposal may result in rejection of the proposal at the sole discretion of the State.

**A. Minimum Requirements**

1. Provide Delaware license(s) and/or certification(s) necessary to perform services as identified in the scope of work, both a business and a license from the Office of Child Care Licensing.

Prior to the execution of an award document, the successful provider shall either furnish the Agency with proof of State of Delaware Business Licensure or initiate the process of application where required.

2. Vendor shall provide responses to the Request for Proposal (RFP) scope of work and clearly identify capabilities as presented in the General Evaluation Requirements below.
3. Complete all appropriate attachments and forms as identified within the RFP.
4. Proof of insurance and amount of insurance shall be furnished to the Agency prior to the start of the contract period and shall be no less than as identified in the bid solicitation, Section D, Item 7, subsection g (insurance).
5. Provide response to Employing Delawareans Report (Attachment 9)
6. Provide Star certificate for a Star 4 or 5

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7. In no case may a provider charge a POC Plus rate that exceeds the provider's private pay, advertised, unsubsidized rate.
8. Become an ASSIST community partner in order to help applicants who are potentially eligible for POC to apply and to help those already eligible to maintain eligibility and authorization.
9. Accept direct deposit

**General Evaluation Requirements**

**Not all bidders will be selected for this contract. Successful bidders will be evaluated based on their responses to the RFP scope of work, and the requirements noted above. The Division's intention is to select at least 4 providers that demonstrate the capacity to meet these requirements and are located in multiple regions of the state. Proposal review and weighting criteria are described on page 15.**

1. DSS will select children from geographic areas of high economic need
2. DSS will consider geographic variation in selection
3. DSS will consider STAR level
4. DSS will consider experience with the Child Care subsidy Program
5. DSS will consider experience, history, and performance.

**IV. Professional Services RFP Administrative Information**

**A. RFP Issuance**

**1. Public Notice**

Public notice has been provided in accordance with 29 *Del. C.* [§6981](#).

**2. Obtaining Copies of the RFP**

This RFP is available in electronic form through the State of Delaware Procurement website at [www.bids.delaware.gov](http://www.bids.delaware.gov) . Paper copies of this RFP will not be available.

**3. Assistance to Vendors with a Disability**

Vendors with a disability may receive accommodation regarding the means of communicating this RFP or participating in the procurement process. For more information, contact the Designated Contact no later than ten days prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals.

**4. RFP Designated Contact**

All requests, questions, or other communications about this RFP shall be made in writing to the State of Delaware. Address all communications to the person listed below; communications made to other State of Delaware personnel or attempting to ask questions by phone or in person will not be allowed or recognized as valid and may disqualify the vendor. Vendors should rely only on written statements issued by the RFP designated contact.

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**Belvie Herbert**  
**Herman Holloway Camus, Lewis Building**  
**1901 N. Dupont Highway**  
**New Castle, DE19720**  
**Belvie.Herbert@state.de.us**

To ensure that written requests are received and answered in a timely manner, electronic mail (e-mail) correspondence is acceptable, but other forms of delivery, such as postal and courier services can also be used.

**5. Consultants and Legal Counsel**

The State of Delaware may retain consultants or legal counsel to assist in the review and evaluation of this RFP and the vendors' responses. Bidders shall not contact the State's consultant or legal counsel on any matter related to the RFP.

**6. Contact with State Employees**

Direct contact with State of Delaware employees other than the State of Delaware Designated Contact regarding this RFP is expressly prohibited without prior consent. Vendors directly contacting State of Delaware employees risk elimination of their proposal from further consideration. Exceptions exist only for organizations currently doing business in the State who require contact in the normal course of doing that business.

**7. Organizations Ineligible to Bid**

Any individual, business, organization, corporation, consortium, partnership, joint venture, or any other entity including subcontractors currently debarred or suspended is ineligible to bid. Any entity ineligible to conduct business in the State of Delaware for any reason is ineligible to respond to the RFP.

**8. Exclusions**

The Proposal Evaluation Team reserves the right to refuse to consider any proposal from a vendor who:

- a. Has been convicted for commission of a criminal offense as an incident to obtaining or attempting to obtain a public or private contract or subcontract, or in the performance of the contract or subcontract;
- b. Has been convicted under State or Federal statutes of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, receiving stolen property, or other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty that currently and seriously affects responsibility as a State contractor;
- c. Has been convicted or has had a civil judgment entered for a violation under State or Federal antitrust statutes;
- d. Has violated contract provisions such as;
  - 1) Knowing failure without good cause to perform in accordance with the specifications or within the time limit provided in the contract; or
  - 2) Failure to perform or unsatisfactory performance in accordance with terms of one or more contracts;
- e. Has violated ethical standards set out in law or regulation; and
- f. Any other cause listed in regulations of the State of Delaware determined to be serious and compelling as to affect responsibility as a State contractor, including suspension or debarment by another governmental entity for a cause listed in the regulations.

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**B. RFP Submissions**

**1. Acknowledgement of Understanding of Terms**

By submitting a bid, each vendor shall be deemed to acknowledge that it has carefully read all sections of this RFP, including all forms, schedules and exhibits hereto, and has fully informed itself as to all existing conditions and limitations.

**2. Proposals**

To be considered, all proposals must be submitted in writing and respond to the items outlined in this RFP. The State reserves the right to reject any non-responsive or non-conforming proposals. Each proposal must be submitted with eight CDs and Hardcopies of Appendix # (Certification Sheet), Appendix # (Bidder's Signature Form) and Appendix # (Statement of Compliance) Please provide a separate electronic pricing file from the rest of the RFP proposal responses. That is, please provide the rates you charge the public for care by the age of the child. Some providers charge only the POC rate. Others charge more than the POC rate plus tier. In this separate pricing document, please show the rates that you charge POC children. If you charge POC plus and base that price on a sliding fee scale, please describe the scale and how it applies to POC families.

All properly sealed and marked proposals are to be sent to the State of Delaware and received no later than **11:00 AM (Local Time)** on Friday, June 12, 2015. The Proposals may be delivered by Express Delivery (e.g., FedEx, UPS, etc.), US Mail, or by hand to:

Kieran Mohammed  
Purchasing Services Administrator  
ATTN: HSS-15-029  
**Room 257**  
**1901 N. DuPont Highway**  
**Herman Holloway Campus**  
**New Castle, DE 19720**

**Vendors are directed to clearly print "BID ENCLOSED" and "CONTRACT NO.RFP # HSS-15-029 " on the outside of the bid submission package.**

Any proposal received after the Deadline Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> 2015 @ 11am est for Receipt of Proposals shall not be considered and shall be returned unopened. The proposing vendor bears the risk of delays in delivery. The contents of any proposal shall not be disclosed as to be made available to competing entities during the negotiation process.

Upon receipt of vendor proposals, each vendor shall be presumed to be thoroughly familiar with all specifications and requirements of this RFP. The failure or omission to examine any form, instrument or document shall in no way relieve vendors from any obligation in respect to this RFP.

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**3. Proposal Modifications**

Any changes, amendments or modifications to a proposal must be made in writing, submitted in the same manner as the original response and conspicuously labeled as a change, amendment or modification to a previously submitted proposal. Changes, amendments or modifications to proposals shall not be accepted or considered after the hour and date specified as the deadline for submission of proposals.

**4. Proposal Costs and Expenses**

The State of Delaware will not pay any costs incurred by any Vendor associated with any aspect of responding to this solicitation, including proposal preparation, printing or delivery, attendance at vendor's conference, system demonstrations or negotiation process.

**5. Proposal Expiration Date**

Prices quoted in the proposal shall remain fixed and binding on the bidder at least through 6/30/2015. The State of Delaware reserves the right to ask for an extension of time if needed.

**6. Late Proposals**

Proposals received after the specified date and time will not be accepted or considered. To guard against premature opening, sealed proposals shall be submitted, plainly marked with the proposal title, vendor name, and time and date of the proposal opening. Evaluation of the proposals is expected to begin shortly after the proposal due date. To document compliance with the deadline, the proposal will be date and time stamped upon receipt.

**7. Proposal Opening**

The State of Delaware will receive proposals until the date and time shown in this RFP. Proposals will be opened only in the presence of the State of Delaware personnel. Any unopened proposals will be returned to the submitting Vendor.

There will be no public opening of proposals but a public log will be kept of the names of all vendor organizations that submitted proposals. The contents of any proposal shall not be disclosed in accordance with [Executive Order # 31](#) and Title 29, Delaware Code, [Chapter 100](#).

**8. Non-Conforming Proposals**

Non-conforming proposals will not be considered. Non-conforming proposals are defined as those that do not meet the requirements of this RFP. The determination of whether an RFP requirement is substantive or a mere formality shall reside solely within the State of Delaware.

**9. Concise Proposals**

The State of Delaware discourages overly lengthy and costly proposals. It is the desire that proposals be prepared in a straightforward and concise manner. Unnecessarily elaborate brochures or other promotional materials beyond those sufficient to present a complete and effective proposal are not desired. The State of Delaware's interest is in the quality and responsiveness of the proposal.

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**10. Realistic Proposals**

It is the expectation of the State of Delaware that vendors can fully satisfy the obligations of the proposal in the manner and timeframe defined within the proposal. Proposals must be realistic and must represent the best estimate of time, materials and other costs including the impact of inflation and any economic or other factors that are reasonably predictable.

The State of Delaware shall bear no responsibility or increase obligation for a vendor's failure to accurately estimate the costs or resources required to meet the obligations defined in the proposal.

**11. Confidentiality of Documents**

Subject to applicable law or the order of a court of competent jurisdiction to the contrary, all documents submitted as part of the vendor's proposal will be treated as confidential during the evaluation process. As such, vendor proposals will not be available for review by anyone other than the State of Delaware/Proposal Evaluation Team or its designated agents. There shall be no disclosure of any vendor's information to a competing vendor prior to award of the contract unless such disclosure is required by law or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

The State of Delaware and its constituent agencies are required to comply with the State of Delaware Freedom of Information Act, [29 Del. C. § 10001, et seq.](#) ("FOIA"). FOIA requires that the State of Delaware's records are public records (unless otherwise declared by FOIA or other law to be exempt from disclosure) and are subject to inspection and copying by any person upon a written request. Once a proposal is received by the State of Delaware and a decision on contract award is made, the content of selected and non-selected vendor proposals will likely become subject to FOIA's public disclosure obligations.

The State of Delaware wishes to create a business-friendly environment and procurement process. As such, the State respects the vendor community's desire to protect its intellectual property, trade secrets, and confidential business information (collectively referred to herein as "confidential business information"). Proposals must contain sufficient information to be evaluated. If a vendor feels that they cannot submit their proposal without including confidential business information, they must adhere to the following procedure or their proposal may be deemed unresponsive, may not be recommended for selection, and any applicable protection for the vendor's confidential business information may be lost.

In order to allow the State to assess its ability to protect a vendor's confidential business information, vendors will be permitted to designate appropriate portions of their proposal as confidential business information.

Vendor(s) may submit portions of a proposal considered to be confidential business information in a separate, sealed envelope labeled "Confidential Business Information" and include the specific RFP number. The envelope must contain a letter from the Vendor's legal counsel describing the documents in the envelope, representing in good faith that the information in each document is not "public record" as defined by 29 Del. C. § 10002, and briefly stating the reasons that each document meets the said definitions.

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Upon receipt of a proposal accompanied by such a separate, sealed envelope, the State of Delaware will open the envelope to determine whether the procedure described above has been followed. A vendor's allegation as to its confidential business information shall not be binding on the State. The State shall independently determine the validity of any vendor designation as set forth in this section. Any vendor submitting a proposal or using the procedures discussed herein expressly accepts the State's absolute right and duty to independently assess the legal and factual validity of any information designated as confidential business information. Accordingly, Vendor(s) assume the risk that confidential business information included within a proposal may enter the public domain.

**12. Multi-Vendor Solutions (Joint Ventures)**

Multi-vendor solutions (joint ventures) will be allowed only if one of the venture partners is designated as the "**prime contractor**". The "**prime contractor**" must be the joint venture's contact point for the State of Delaware and be responsible for the joint venture's performance under the contract, including all project management, legal and financial responsibility for the implementation of all vendor systems. If a joint venture is proposed, a copy of the joint venture agreement clearly describing the responsibilities of the partners must be submitted with the proposal. Services specified in the proposal shall not be subcontracted without prior written approval by the State of Delaware, and approval of a request to subcontract shall not in any way relieve Vendor of responsibility for the professional and technical accuracy and adequacy of the work. Further, vendor shall be and remain liable for all damages to the State of Delaware caused by negligent performance or non-performance of work by its subcontractor or its sub-subcontractor.

Multi-vendor proposals must be a consolidated response with all cost included in the cost summary. Where necessary, RFP response pages are to be duplicated for each vendor.

**a. Primary Vendor**

The State of Delaware expects to negotiate and contract with only one "prime vendor". The State of Delaware will not accept any proposals that reflect an equal teaming arrangement or from vendors who are co-bidding on this RFP. The prime vendor will be responsible for the management of all subcontractors.

Any contract that may result from this RFP shall specify that the prime vendor is solely responsible for fulfillment of any contract with the State as a result of this procurement. The State will make contract payments only to the awarded vendor. Payments to any-subcontractors are the sole responsibility of the prime vendor (awarded vendor).

Nothing in this section shall prohibit the State of Delaware from the full exercise of its options under Section IV.B.16 regarding multiple source contracting.

**b. Sub-contracting**

The vendor selected shall be solely responsible for contractual performance and management of all subcontract relationships. This contract allows subcontracting assignments; however, vendors assume all responsibility for work quality, delivery, installation, maintenance, and any supporting services required by a subcontractor.

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Use of subcontractors must be clearly explained in the proposal, and major subcontractors must be identified by name. **The prime vendor shall be wholly responsible for the entire contract performance whether or not subcontractors are used.** Any sub-contractors must be approved by State of Delaware.

**c. Multiple Proposals**

A primary vendor may not participate in more than one proposal in any form. Sub-contracting vendors may participate in multiple joint venture proposals.

**13. Sub-Contracting**

The vendor selected shall be solely responsible for contractual performance and management of all subcontract relationships. This contract allows subcontracting assignments; however, vendors assume all responsibility for work quality, delivery, installation, maintenance, and any supporting services required by a subcontractor.

Use of subcontractors must be clearly explained in the proposal, and subcontractors must be identified by name. Any sub-contractors must be approved by State of Delaware.

**14. Discrepancies and Omissions**

Vendor is fully responsible for the completeness and accuracy of their proposal, and for examining this RFP and all addenda. Failure to do so will be at the sole risk of vendor. Should vendor find discrepancies, omissions, unclear or ambiguous intent or meaning, or should any questions arise concerning this RFP, vendor shall notify the State of Delaware's Designated Contact, in writing, of such findings at least ten (10) days before the proposal opening. This will allow issuance of any necessary addenda. It will also help prevent the opening of a defective proposal and exposure of vendor's proposal upon which award could not be made. All unresolved issues should be addressed in the proposal.

Protests based on any omission or error, or on the content of the solicitation, will be disallowed if these faults have not been brought to the attention of the Designated Contact, in writing, at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the time set for opening of the proposals.

**a. RFP Question and Answer Process**

The State of Delaware will allow written requests for clarification of the RFP. All questions shall be received no later than **May 1, 2015**. All questions will be consolidated into a single set of responses and posted on the State's website at [www.bids.delaware.gov](http://www.bids.delaware.gov) by the date of **May 8, 2015**. Vendor names will be removed from questions in the responses released. Questions should be submitted in the following format. Deviations from this format will not be accepted.

Section number

Paragraph number

Page number

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Text of passage being questioned

Questions not submitted electronically shall be accompanied by a CD and questions shall be formatted in Microsoft Word.

**15. State's Right to Reject Proposals**

The State of Delaware reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals or any part of any proposal, to waive defects, technicalities or any specifications (whether they be in the State of Delaware's specifications or vendor's response), to sit and act as sole judge of the merit and qualifications of each product offered, or to solicit new proposals on the same project or on a modified project which may include portions of the originally proposed project as the State of Delaware may deem necessary in the best interest of the State of Delaware.

**16. State's Right to Cancel Solicitation**

The State of Delaware reserves the right to cancel this solicitation at any time during the procurement process, for any reason or for no reason. The State of Delaware makes no commitments expressed or implied, that this process will result in a business transaction with any vendor.

This RFP does not constitute an offer by the State of Delaware. Vendor's participation in this process may result in the State of Delaware selecting your organization to engage in further discussions and negotiations toward execution of a contract. The commencement of such negotiations does not, however, signify a commitment by the State of Delaware to execute a contract nor to continue negotiations. The State of Delaware may terminate negotiations at any time and for any reason, or for no reason.

**17. State's Right to Award Multiple Source Contracting**

Pursuant to 29 *Del. C.* [§ 6986](#), the State of Delaware may award a contract for a particular professional service to two or more vendors if the agency head makes a determination that such an award is in the best interest of the State of Delaware.

**18. Notification of Withdrawal of Proposal**

Vendor may modify or withdraw its proposal by written request, provided that both proposal and request is received by the State of Delaware prior to the proposal due date. Proposals may be re-submitted in accordance with the proposal due date in order to be considered further.

Proposals become the property of the State of Delaware at the proposal submission deadline. All proposals received are considered firm offers at that time.

**19. Revisions to the RFP**

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of the RFP, an addendum will be posted on the State of Delaware's website at [www.bids.delaware.gov](http://www.bids.delaware.gov). The State of Delaware is not bound by any statement related to this RFP made by any State of Delaware employee, contractor or its agents.

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**20. Exceptions to the RFP**

Any exceptions to the RFP, or the State of Delaware's terms and conditions, must be recorded on Attachment 3. Acceptance of exceptions is within the sole discretion of the evaluation committee.

**21. Award of Contract**

The final award of a contract is subject to approval by the State of Delaware. The State of Delaware has the sole right to select the successful vendor(s) for award, to reject any proposal as unsatisfactory or non-responsive, to award a contract to other than the lowest priced proposal, to award multiple contracts, or not to award a contract, as a result of this RFP.

Notice in writing to a vendor of the acceptance of its proposal by the State of Delaware and the subsequent full execution of a written contract will constitute a contract, and no vendor will acquire any legal or equitable rights or privileges until the occurrence of both such events.

**a. RFP Award Notifications**

After reviews of the evaluation committee report and its recommendation, and once the contract terms and conditions have been finalized, the State of Delaware will award the contract.

The contract shall be awarded to the vendor whose proposal is most advantageous, taking into consideration the evaluation factors set forth in the RFP.

It should be explicitly noted that the State of Delaware is not obligated to award the contract to the vendor who submits the lowest bid or the vendor who receives the highest total point score, rather the contract will be awarded to the vendor whose proposal is the most advantageous to the State of Delaware. The award is subject to the appropriate State of Delaware approvals.

After a final selection is made, the winning vendor will be invited to negotiate a contract with the State of Delaware; remaining vendors will be notified in writing of their selection status.

**22. Cooperatives**

Vendors, who have been awarded similar contracts through a competitive bidding process with a cooperative, are welcome to submit the cooperative pricing for this solicitation.

**C. RFP Evaluation Process**

An evaluation team composed of representatives of the State of Delaware will evaluate proposals on a variety of quantitative criteria. Neither the lowest price nor highest scoring proposal will necessarily be selected.

The State of Delaware reserves full discretion to determine the competence and responsibility, professionally and/or financially, of vendors. Vendors are to provide in a timely manner any and all information that the State of Delaware may deem necessary to make a decision.

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**1. Proposal Evaluation Team**

The Team may negotiate with one or more vendors during the same period and may, at its discretion, terminate negotiations with any or all vendors. The Team shall make a recommendation regarding the award to the DSS Director, who shall have final authority, subject to the provisions of this RFP and 29 *Del. C.* § [6982](#), to award a contract to the successful vendor in the best interests of the State of Delaware.

**2. Proposal Selection Criteria**

The Proposal Evaluation Team shall assign up to the maximum number of points for each Evaluation Item to each of the proposing vendor's proposals. All assignments of points shall be at the sole discretion of the Proposal Evaluation Team.

The proposals shall contain the essential information on which the award decision shall be made. The information required to be submitted in response to this RFP has been determined by the State of Delaware to be essential for use by the Team in the bid evaluation and award process. Therefore, all instructions contained in this RFP shall be met in order to qualify as a responsive and responsible contractor and participate in the Proposal Evaluation Team's consideration for award. Proposals which do not meet or comply with the instructions of this RFP may be considered non-conforming and deemed non-responsive and subject to disqualification at the sole discretion of the Team.

The Team reserves the right to:

- Select for contract or for negotiations a proposal other than that with lowest costs.
- Reject any and all proposals or portions of proposals received in response to this RFP or to make no award or issue a new RFP.
- Waive or modify any information, irregularity, or inconsistency in proposals received.
- Request modification to proposals from any or all vendors during the contract review and negotiation.
- Negotiate any aspect of the proposal with any vendor and negotiate with more than one vendor at the same time.
- Select more than one vendor pursuant to 29 *Del. C.* §[6986](#). Such selection will be based on the following criteria:
  - (list criteria for multiple vendor award selection)

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**Criteria Weight**

All proposals shall be evaluated using the same criteria and scoring process. The following criteria shall be used by the Evaluation Team to evaluate proposals:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Weight</b>
The quality of the plan for family engagement, with a focus on promoting continuity to assure that the child remains, at a minimum, in the care of the provider throughout the contract. The ideal plan would include a focus on assigning a primary teacher/caregiver and ensuring that the child remains with the same teacher/caregiver over time.	<b>25</b>
Provider capacity to conduct individual child assessments and use these data to guide instruction and communicate with families.	<b>20</b>
The quality of the outreach plan to keep POC slots purchased through this contract filled with a POC eligible child	<b>10</b>
Provider rate structure for the pilot slots	<b>5</b>
Strategies proposed to ensure that POC children attend the program daily	<b>10</b>
Provider Star level and plan to improve	<b>10</b>
Program is located in high-need area and reflects regional diversity	<b>10</b>
Provider commitment to work with DSS on the pilot policies/procedures	<b>5</b>
Prior positive experience collaborating with state agencies.	<b>5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Vendors are encouraged to review the evaluation criteria and to provide a response that addresses each of the scored items. Evaluators will not be able to make assumptions about a vendor's capabilities so the responding vendor should be detailed in their proposal responses.

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**3. Proposal Clarification**

The Evaluation Team may contact any vendor in order to clarify uncertainties or eliminate confusion concerning the contents of a proposal. Proposals may not be modified as a result of any such clarification request.

**4. References**

The Evaluation Team may contact any customer of the vendor, whether or not included in the vendor's reference list, and use such information in the evaluation process. Additionally, the State of Delaware may choose to visit existing installations of comparable systems, which may or may not include vendor personnel. If the vendor is involved in such site visits, the State of Delaware will pay travel costs only for State of Delaware personnel for these visits.

**5. Oral Presentations**

After initial scoring and a determination that vendor(s) are qualified to perform the required services, selected vendors may be invited to make oral presentations to the Evaluation Team. All vendor(s) selected will be given an opportunity to present to the Evaluation Team.

The selected vendors will have their presentations scored or ranked based on their ability to successfully meet the needs of the contract requirements, successfully demonstrate their product and/or service, and respond to questions about the solution capabilities.

The vendor representative(s) attending the oral presentation shall be technically qualified to respond to questions related to the proposed system and its components. All of the vendor's costs associated with participation in oral discussions and system demonstrations conducted for the State of Delaware are the vendor's responsibility.

**D. Contract Terms and Conditions**

**1. Contract Use by Other Agencies**

**REF: Title 29, Chapter [6904\(e\)](#) Delaware Code.** If no state contract exists for a certain good or service, covered agencies may procure that certain good or service under another agency's contract so long as the arrangement is agreeable to all parties. Agencies, other than covered agencies, may also procure such goods or services under another agency's contract when the arrangement is agreeable to all parties.

**2. Cooperative Use of Award**

As a publicly competed contract awarded in compliance with 29 DE Code Chapter 69, this contract is available for use by other states and/or governmental entities through a participating addendum. Interested parties should contact the State Contract Procurement Officer identified in the contract for instruction. Final approval for permitting participation in this contract resides with the Director of Government Support Services and in no way places any obligation upon the awarded vendor(s).

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**3. General Information**

- a. The term of the contract between the successful bidder and the State shall be for one year with two optional extensions for a period of one (1) year for each extension.
- b. The selected vendor will be required to enter into a written agreement with the State of Delaware. The State of Delaware reserves the right to incorporate standard State contractual provisions into any contract negotiated as a result of a proposal submitted in response to this RFP. Any proposed modifications to the terms and conditions of the standard contract are subject to review and approval by the State of Delaware. Vendors will be required to sign the contract for all services, and may be required to sign additional agreements.
- c. The selected vendor or vendors will be expected to enter negotiations with the State of Delaware, which will result in a formal contract between parties. Procurement will be in accordance with subsequent contracted agreement. This RFP and the selected vendor's response to this RFP will be incorporated as part of any formal contract.
- d. The State of Delaware's standard contract will most likely be supplemented with the vendor's software license, support/maintenance, source code escrow agreements, and any other applicable agreements. The terms and conditions of these agreements will be negotiated with the finalist during actual contract negotiations.
- e. The successful vendor shall promptly execute a contract incorporating the terms of this RFP within twenty (20) days after award of the contract. No vendor is to begin any service prior to receipt of a State of Delaware purchase order signed by two authorized representatives of the agency requesting service, properly processed through the State of Delaware Accounting Office and the Department of Finance. The purchase order shall serve as the authorization to proceed in accordance with the bid specifications and the special instructions, once it is received by the successful vendor.
- f. If the vendor to whom the award is made fails to enter into the agreement as herein provided, the award will be annulled, and an award may be made to another vendor. Such vendor shall fulfill every stipulation embraced herein as if they were the party to whom the first award was made.

**4. Collusion or Fraud**

Any evidence of agreement or collusion among vendor(s) and prospective vendor(s) acting to illegally restrain freedom from competition by agreement to offer a fixed price, or otherwise, will render the offers of such vendor(s) void.

By responding, the vendor shall be deemed to have represented and warranted that its proposal is not made in connection with any competing vendor submitting a separate response to this RFP, and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud; that the vendor did not participate in the RFP development process and had no knowledge of the specific contents of the RFP prior to its issuance; and that no employee or official of the State of Delaware participated directly or indirectly in the vendor's proposal preparation.

Advance knowledge of information which gives any particular vendor advantages over any other interested vendor(s), in advance of the opening of proposals, whether in response to advertising or an employee or representative thereof, will potentially void that particular proposal.

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**5. Lobbying and Gratuities**

Lobbying or providing gratuities shall be strictly prohibited. Vendors found to be lobbying, providing gratuities to, or in any way attempting to influence a State of Delaware employee or agent of the State of Delaware concerning this RFP or the award of a contract resulting from this RFP shall have their proposal immediately rejected and shall be barred from further participation in this RFP.

The selected vendor will warrant that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure a contract resulting from this RFP upon agreement or understanding for a commission, or a percentage, brokerage or contingent fee. For breach or violation of this warranty, the State of Delaware shall have the right to annul any contract resulting from this RFP without liability or at its discretion deduct from the contract price or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee.

All contact with State of Delaware employees, contractors or agents of the State of Delaware concerning this RFP shall be conducted in strict accordance with the manner, forum and conditions set forth in this RFP.

**6. Solicitation of State Employees**

Until contract award, vendors shall not, directly or indirectly, solicit any employee of the State of Delaware to leave the State of Delaware's employ in order to accept employment with the vendor, its affiliates, actual or prospective contractors, or any person acting in concert with vendor, without prior written approval of the State of Delaware's contracting officer. Solicitation of State of Delaware employees by a vendor may result in rejection of the vendor's proposal.

This paragraph does not prevent the employment by a vendor of a State of Delaware employee who has initiated contact with the vendor. However, State of Delaware employees may be legally prohibited from accepting employment with the contractor or subcontractor under certain circumstances. Vendors may not knowingly employ a person who cannot legally accept employment under state or federal law. If a vendor discovers that they have done so, they must terminate that employment immediately.

**7. General Contract Terms**

**a. Independent Contractors**

The parties to the contract shall be independent contractors to one another, and nothing herein shall be deemed to cause this agreement to create an agency, partnership, joint venture or employment relationship between parties. Each party shall be responsible for compliance with all applicable workers compensation, unemployment, disability insurance, social security withholding and all other similar matters. Neither party shall be liable for any debts, accounts, obligations or other liability whatsoever of the other party or any other obligation of the other party to pay on the behalf of its employees or to withhold from any compensation paid to such employees any social benefits, workers compensation insurance premiums or any income or other similar taxes.

It may be at the State of Delaware's discretion as to the location of work for the contractual support personnel during the project period. The State of Delaware

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may provide working space and sufficient supplies and material to augment the Contractor's services.

**b. Temporary Personnel are Not State Employees Unless and Until They are Hired**

Vendor agrees that any individual or group of temporary staff person(s) provided to the State of Delaware pursuant to this Solicitation shall remain the employee(s) of Vendor for all purposes including any required compliance with the Affordable Care Act by the Vendor. Vendor agrees that it shall not allege, argue, or take any position that individual temporary staff person(s) provided to the State pursuant to this Solicitation must be provided any benefits, including any healthcare benefits by the State of Delaware and Vendor agrees to assume the total and complete responsibility for the provision of any healthcare benefits required by the Affordable Care Act to aforesaid individual temporary staff person(s). In the event that the Internal Revenue Service, or any other third party governmental entity determines that the State of Delaware is a dual employer or the sole employer of any individual temporary staff person(s) provided to the State of Delaware pursuant to this Solicitation, Vendor agrees to hold harmless, indemnify, and defend the State to the maximum extent of any liability to the State arising out of such determinations.

Notwithstanding the content of the preceding paragraph, should the State of Delaware subsequently directly hire any individual temporary staff employee(s) provided pursuant to this Solicitation, the aforementioned obligations to hold harmless, indemnify, and defend the State of Delaware shall cease and terminate for the period following the date of hire. Nothing herein shall be deemed to terminate the Vendor's obligation to hold harmless, indemnify, and defend the State of Delaware for any liability that arises out of compliance with the ACA prior to the date of hire by the State of Delaware. Vendor will waive any separation fee provided an employee works for both the vendor and hiring agency, continuously, for a three (3) month period and is provided thirty (30) days written notice of intent to hire from the agency. Notice can be issued at second month if it is the State's intention to hire.

**c. ACA Safe Harbor**

The State and its utilizing agencies are not the employer of temporary or contracted staff. However, the State is concerned that it could be determined to be a Common-law Employer as defined by the Affordable Care Act ("ACA"). Therefore, the State seeks to utilize the "Common-law Employer Safe Harbor Exception" under the ACA to transfer health benefit insurance requirements to the staffing company. The Common-law Employer Safe Harbor Exception can be attained when the State and/or its agencies are charged and pay for an "Additional Fee" with respect to the employees electing to obtain health coverage from the Vendor.

The Common-law Employer Safe Harbor Exception under the ACA requires that an Additional Fee must be charged to those employees who obtain health coverage from the Vendor, but does not state the required amount of the fee. The State requires that all Vendors shall identify the Additional Fee to obtain health coverage from the Vendor and delineate the Additional Fee from all other charges and fees. The Vendor shall identify both the Additional Fee to be

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charged and the basis of how the fee is applied (i.e. per employee, per invoice, etc.). The State will consider the Additional Fee and prior to award reserves the right to negotiate any fees offered by the Vendor. Further, the Additional Fee shall be separately scored in the proposal to ensure that neither prices charged nor the Additional Fee charged will have a detrimental effect when selecting vendor(s) for award.

**d. Licenses and Permits**

In performance of the contract, the vendor will be required to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, codes, and regulations. The cost of permits and other relevant costs required in the performance of the contract shall be borne by the successful vendor. The vendor shall be properly licensed and authorized to transact business in the State of Delaware as provided in 30 *Del. C.* § [2502](#).

Prior to receiving an award, the successful vendor shall either furnish the State of Delaware with proof of State of Delaware Business Licensure or initiate the process of application where required. An application may be requested in writing to: Division of Revenue, Carvel State Building, P.O. Box 8750, 820 N. French Street, Wilmington, DE 19899 or by telephone to one of the following numbers: (302) 577-8200—Public Service, (302) 577-8205—Licensing Department.

Information regarding the award of the contract will be given to the Division of Revenue. Failure to comply with the State of Delaware licensing requirements may subject vendor to applicable fines and/or interest penalties.

**e. Notice**

Any notice to the State of Delaware required under the contract shall be sent by registered mail to:

**Division of Social Services  
Holloway Health & Social Services Campus  
1901 N. DuPont Highway  
Lewis Building  
New Castle, DE 19720  
Attn: Belvie Herbert**

**CONTACT**

**f. Indemnification**

**1. General Indemnification**

By submitting a proposal, the proposing vendor agrees that in the event it is awarded a contract, it will indemnify and otherwise hold harmless the State of Delaware, its agents and employees from any and all liability, suits, actions, or claims, together with all costs, expenses for attorney's fees, arising out of the vendor's, its agents and employees' performance work or services in connection with the contract, regardless of whether such suits, actions,

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claims or liabilities are based upon acts or failures to act attributable, whole or part, to the State, its employees or agents.

**2. Proprietary Rights Indemnification**

Vendor shall warrant that all elements of its solution, including all equipment, software, documentation, services and deliverables, do not and will not infringe upon or violate any patent, copyright, trade secret or other proprietary rights of any third party. In the event of any claim, suit or action by any third party against the State of Delaware, the State of Delaware shall promptly notify the vendor in writing and vendor shall defend such claim, suit or action at vendor's expense, and vendor shall indemnify the State of Delaware against any loss, cost, damage, expense or liability arising out of such claim, suit or action (including, without limitation, litigation costs, lost employee time, and counsel fees) whether or not such claim, suit or action is successful.

If any equipment, software, services (including methods) products or other intellectual property used or furnished by the vendor (collectively "Products") is or in vendor's reasonable judgment is likely to be, held to constitute an infringing product, vendor shall at its expense and option either:

- a. Procure the right for the State of Delaware to continue using the Product(s);
- b. Replace the product with a non-infringing equivalent that satisfies all the requirements of the contract; or
- c. Modify the Product(s) to make it or them non-infringing, provided that the modification does not materially alter the functionality or efficacy of the product or cause the Product(s) or any part of the work to fail to conform to the requirements of the Contract, or only alters the Product(s) to a degree that the State of Delaware agrees to and accepts in writing.

**g. Insurance** See Appendix F for the insurance requirements associated with this RFP.

**h. Performance Requirements**

The selected Vendor will warrant that it possesses, or has arranged through subcontractors, all capital and other equipment, labor, materials, and licenses necessary to carry out and complete the work hereunder in compliance with any and all Federal and State laws, and County and local ordinances, regulations and codes.

**i. Costs and Payment Schedules**

For this proposal, the vendor shall list the number of children, by age, proposed in the RFP response for this slot payment and list the provider's published rate for those children for facility location and type.

If the published rate exceeds the POC maximum rate ceiling, the vendor must

- 1) certify to not charge more than the POC maximum rate or
- 2) describe the POC plus fee collection policies and attach a sliding fee scale for these families that describes how fees will be affordable, based on family income or, otherwise describe how the provider assesses the plus rate.

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If the vendor prefers a staggered arrangement to reach the maximum number of slots proposed under this pilot, (e.g., fill 5 slots the first month, 5 more the second month, and so forth) a narrative description and timeline for on-boarding slots must be included in the proposal.

Additionally, the provider must state the average number of children in care at the facility on a daily basis.

**j. Penalties**

The State of Delaware may include in the final contract penalty provisions for non-performance.

**k. Termination of Contract**

The contract resulting from this RFP may be terminated as follows by the Division of Social Services.

1. **Termination for Cause:** If, for any reasons, or through any cause, the Vendor fails to fulfill in timely and proper manner its obligations under this Contract, or if the Vendor violates any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this Contract, the State shall thereupon have the right to terminate this contract by giving written notice to the Vendor of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof, at least twenty (20) days before the effective date of such termination. In that event, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, maps, models, photographs, and reports or other material prepared by the Vendor under this Contract shall, at the option of the State, become its property, and the Vendor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any satisfactory work completed on such documents and other materials which is usable to the State.

On receipt of the contract cancellation notice from the State, the Vendor shall have no less than five (5) days to provide a written response and may identify a method(s) to resolve the violation(s). A vendor response shall not effect or prevent the contract cancellation unless the State provides a written acceptance of the vendor response. If the State does accept the Vendor's method and/or action plan to correct the identified deficiencies, the State will define the time by which the Vendor must fulfill its corrective obligations. Final retraction of the State's termination for cause will only occur after the Vendor successfully rectifies the original violation(s). At its discretion the State may reject in writing the Vendor's proposed action plan and proceed with the original contract cancellation timeline.

2. **Termination for Convenience:** The State may terminate this Contract at any time by giving written notice of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof, at least twenty (20) days before the effective date of such termination. In that event, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, models, photographs, reports, supplies, and other materials shall, at the option of the State, become its property and the Vendor shall be entitled to receive compensation for any satisfactory work completed on such documents and other materials, and which is usable to the State.
3. **Termination for Non-Appropriations:** In the event the General Assembly fails to appropriate the specific funds necessary to enter into or continue the contractual agreement, in whole or part, the agreement shall be terminated as

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to any obligation of the State requiring the expenditure of money for which no specific appropriation is available at the end of the last fiscal year for which no appropriation is available or upon the exhaustion of funds. This is not a termination for convenience and will not be converted to such.

**I. Non-discrimination**

In performing the services subject to this RFP the vendor, as set forth in Title 19 Delaware Code Chapter 7 section [711](#), will agree that it will not discriminate against any employee or applicant with respect to compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment because of such individual's race, marital status, genetic information, color, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. The successful vendor shall comply with all federal and state laws, regulations and policies pertaining to the prevention of discriminatory employment practice. Failure to perform under this provision constitutes a material breach of contract.

**m. Covenant against Contingent Fees**

The successful vendor will warrant that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement of understanding for a commission or percentage, brokerage or contingent fee excepting bona-fide employees, bona-fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the Vendor for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this warranty the State of Delaware shall have the right to annul the contract without liability or at its discretion to deduct from the contract price or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee.

**n. Vendor Activity**

No activity is to be executed in an off shore facility, either by a subcontracted firm or a foreign office or division of the vendor. The vendor must attest to the fact that no activity will take place outside of the United States in its transmittal letter. Failure to adhere to this requirement is cause for elimination from future consideration.

**o. Vendor Responsibility**

The State will enter into a contract with the successful Vendor(s). The successful Vendor(s) shall be responsible for all products and services as required by this RFP whether or not the Vendor or its subcontractor provided final fulfillment of the order. Subcontractors, if any, shall be clearly identified in the Vendor's proposal by completing Attachment 6, and are subject the approval and acceptance of the Division of Social Services.

**p. Personnel, Equipment and Services**

1. The Vendor represents that it has, or will secure at its own expense, all personnel required to perform the services required under this contract.
2. All of the equipment and services required hereunder shall be provided by or performed by the Vendor or under its direct supervision, and all personnel, including subcontractors, engaged in the work shall be fully qualified and shall be authorized under State and local law to perform such services.
3. None of the equipment and/or services covered by this contract shall be subcontracted without the prior written approval of the State. Only those

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subcontractors identified in Attachment 6 are considered approved upon award. Changes to those subcontractor(s) listed in Attachment 6 must be approved in writing by the State.

**q. Fair Background Check Practices**

Pursuant to 29 Del. C. [§6909B](#) and effective November 4, 2014 the State does not consider the criminal record, criminal history, credit history or credit score of an applicant for state employment during the initial application process unless otherwise required by state and/or federal law. Vendors doing business with the State are encouraged to adopt fair background check practices. Vendors can refer to 19 Del. C. [§711\(g\)](#) for applicable established provisions.

**r. Vendor Background Check Requirements**

Vendor(s) selected for an award that access state property or come in contact with vulnerable populations, including children and youth, shall be required to complete background checks on employees serving the State's on premises contracts. Unless otherwise directed, at a minimum, this shall include a check of the following registry:

- Delaware Sex Offender Central Registry at:  
<https://desexoffender.dsp.delaware.gov/SexOffenderPublic/>

Individuals that are listed in the registry shall be prevented from direct contact in the service of an awarded state contract, but may provide support or off-site premises service for contract vendors. Should an individual be identified and the Vendor(s) believes their employee's service does not represent a conflict with this requirement, may apply for a waiver to the primary agency listed in the solicitation. The Agency's decision to allow or deny access to any individual identified on a registry database is final and at the Agency's sole discretion.

By Agency request, the Vendor(s) shall provide a list of all employees serving an awarded contract, and certify adherence to the background check requirement. Individual(s) found in the central registry in violation of the terms stated, shall be immediately prevented from a return to state property in service of a contract award. A violation of this condition represents a violation of the contract terms and conditions, and may subject the Vendor to penalty, including contract cancellation for cause.

Individual contracts may require additional background checks and/or security clearance(s), depending on the nature of the services to be provided or locations accessed, but any other requirements shall be stated in the contract scope of work or be a matter of common law. The Vendor(s) shall be responsible for the background check requirements of any authorized Subcontractor providing service to the Agency's contract.

**s. Work Product**

All materials and products developed under the executed contract by the vendor are the sole and exclusive property of the State. The vendor will seek written permission to use any product created under the contract.

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**t. Contract Documents**

The RFP, the purchase order, the executed contract and any supplemental documents between the State of Delaware and the successful vendor shall constitute the contract between the State of Delaware and the vendor. In the event there is any discrepancy between any of these contract documents, the following order of documents governs so that the former prevails over the latter: contract, State of Delaware's RFP, Vendor's response to the RFP and purchase order. No other documents shall be considered. These documents will constitute the entire agreement between the State of Delaware and the vendor.

**u. Applicable Law**

The laws of the State of Delaware shall apply, except where Federal Law has precedence. The successful vendor consents to jurisdiction and venue in the State of Delaware.

In submitting a proposal, Vendors certify that they comply with all federal, state and local laws applicable to its activities and obligations including:

1. the laws of the State of Delaware;
2. the applicable portion of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964;
3. the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the regulations issued there under by the federal government;
4. a condition that the proposal submitted was independently arrived at, without collusion, under penalty of perjury; and
5. that programs, services, and activities provided to the general public under resulting contract conform with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the regulations issued there under by the federal government.

If any vendor fails to comply with (1) through (5) of this paragraph, the State of Delaware reserves the right to disregard the proposal, terminate the contract, or consider the vendor in default.

The selected vendor shall keep itself fully informed of and shall observe and comply with all applicable existing Federal and State laws, and County and local ordinances, regulations and codes, and those laws, ordinances, regulations, and codes adopted during its performance of the work.

**v. Severability**

If any term or provision of this Agreement is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal or otherwise unenforceable, the same shall not affect the other terms or provisions hereof or the whole of this Agreement, but such term or provision shall be deemed modified to the extent necessary in the court's opinion to render such term or provision enforceable, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced accordingly, preserving to the fullest permissible extent the intent and agreements of the parties herein set forth.

**w. Scope of Agreement**

If the scope of any provision of the contract is determined to be too broad in any respect whatsoever to permit enforcement to its full extent, then such provision

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shall be enforced to the maximum extent permitted by law, and the parties hereto consent and agree that such scope may be judicially modified accordingly and that the whole of such provisions of the contract shall not thereby fail, but the scope of such provisions shall be curtailed only to the extent necessary to conform to the law.

**x. Affirmation**

The Vendor must affirm that within the past five (5) years the firm or any officer, controlling stockholder, partner, principal, or other person substantially involved in the contracting activities of the business is not currently suspended or debarred and is not a successor, subsidiary, or affiliate of a suspended or debarred business.

**y. Audit Access to Records**

The Vendor shall maintain books, records, documents, and other evidence pertaining to this Contract to the extent and in such detail as shall adequately reflect performance hereunder. The Vendor agrees to preserve and make available to the State, upon request, such records for a period of five (5) years from the date services were rendered by the Vendor. Records involving matters in litigation shall be retained for one (1) year following the termination of such litigation. The Vendor agrees to make such records available for inspection, audit, or reproduction to any official State representative in the performance of their duties under the Contract. Upon notice given to the Vendor, representatives of the State or other duly authorized State or Federal agency may inspect, monitor, and/or evaluate the cost and billing records or other material relative to this Contract. The cost of any Contract audit disallowances resulting from the examination of the Vendor's financial records will be borne by the Vendor. Reimbursement to the State for disallowances shall be drawn from the Vendor's own resources and not charged to Contract cost or cost pools indirectly charging Contract costs.

**z. Other General Conditions**

1. **Current Version** – “Packaged” application and system software shall be the most current version generally available as of the date of the physical installation of the software.
2. **Current Manufacture** – Equipment specified and/or furnished under this specification shall be standard products of manufacturers regularly engaged in the production of such equipment and shall be the manufacturer’s latest design. All material and equipment offered shall be new and unused.
3. **Volumes and Quantities** – Activity volume estimates and other quantities have been reviewed for accuracy; however, they may be subject to change prior or subsequent to award of the contract.
4. **Prior Use** – The State of Delaware reserves the right to use equipment and material furnished under this proposal prior to final acceptance. Such use shall not constitute acceptance of the work or any part thereof by the State of Delaware.
5. **Status Reporting** – The selected vendor will be required to lead and/or participate in status meetings and submit status reports covering such items as progress of work being performed, milestones attained, resources

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expended, problems encountered and corrective action taken, until final system acceptance.

6. **Regulations** – All equipment, software and services must meet all applicable local, State and Federal regulations in effect on the date of the contract.
7. **Changes** – No alterations in any terms, conditions, delivery, price, quality, or specifications of items ordered will be effective without the written consent of the State of Delaware.
8. **Purchase Orders** – Agencies that are part of the First State Financial (FSF) system are required to identify the contract number **RFP # HSS-15-029** on all Purchase Orders (P.O.) and shall complete the same when entering P.O. information in the state's financial reporting system.
9. **Additional Terms and Conditions** – The State of Delaware reserves the right to add terms and conditions during the contract negotiations.

**E. RFP Miscellaneous Information**

**1. No Press Releases or Public Disclosure**

The State of Delaware reserves the right to pre-approve any news or broadcast advertising releases concerning this solicitation, the resulting contract, the work performed, or any reference to the State of Delaware with regard to any project or contract performance. Any such news or advertising releases pertaining to this solicitation or resulting contract shall require the prior express written permission of the State of Delaware.

The State will not prohibit or otherwise prevent the awarded vendor(s) from direct marketing to the State of Delaware agencies, departments, municipalities, and/or any other political subdivisions, however, the Vendor shall not use the State's seal or imply preference for the solution or goods provided.

**2. Definitions of Requirements**

To prevent any confusion about identifying requirements in this RFP, the following definition is offered: The words *shall*, *will* and/or *must* are used to designate a mandatory requirement. Vendors must respond to all mandatory requirements presented in the RFP. Failure to respond to a mandatory requirement may cause the disqualification of your proposal.

**3. Production Environment Requirements**

The State of Delaware requires that all hardware, system software products, and application software products included in proposals be currently in use in a production environment by a least three other customers, have been in use for at least six months, and have been generally available from the manufacturers for a period of six months. Unreleased or beta test hardware, system software, or application software will not be acceptable.

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**F. Attachments**

The following attachments and appendixes shall be considered part of the solicitation:

- Attachment 1 – No Proposal Reply Form
- Attachment 2 – Non-Collusion Statement
- Attachment 3 – Exceptions
- Attachment 4 – Confidentiality and Proprietary Information
- Attachment 5 – Business References
- Attachment 6 – Subcontractor Information Form
- Attachment 7 – Monthly Usage Report
- Attachment 8 – Subcontracting (2<sup>nd</sup> Tier Spend) Report
- Attachment 9 – Employing Delawareans Report
- Attachment 10 – Office of Supplier Diversity Application
- Appendix A – Minimum Response Requirements
- Appendix B – Scope of Work / Technical Requirements
- Appendix C – Bidders Signature Form
- Appendix D – Certification Sheet
- Appendix E – Statement of Compliance
- Appendix F – DHSS Contract Boilerplate
- Appendix G – Community Partner MOU

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## **IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE**

- **Attachments 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9 must be included in your proposal**
- Attachment 6 must be included in your proposal if subcontractors will be involved
- Attachments 7 and 8 represent required reporting on the part of awarded vendors. Those bidders receiving an award will be provided with active spreadsheets for reporting.

### **REQUIRED REPORTING**

One of the primary goals in administering this contract is to keep accurate records regarding its actual value/usage. This information is essential in order to update the contents of the contract and to establish proper bonding levels if they are required. The integrity of future contracts revolves around our ability to convey accurate and realistic information to all interested parties.

A complete and accurate Usage Report (Attachment 7) shall be furnished in an **Excel format and submitted electronically**, no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> (or next business day after the 15<sup>th</sup> day) of each month, detailing the purchasing of all items on this contract. The reports shall be submitted and sent as an attachment to the Division of Social Services. Submitted reports shall contain accurate descriptions of the products, goods or services procured, purchasing agency information, including the six-digit department and organization code, quantities procured and prices paid. Any exception to this mandatory requirement or failure to submit complete reports, or in the format required, may result corrective action, up to and including the possible cancellation of the award. Failure to provide the report with the minimum required information may also negate any contract extension clauses. Additionally, Vendors who are determined to be in default of this mandatory report requirement may have such conduct considered against them, in assessment of responsibility, in the evaluation of future proposals.

Reporting is required by Executive Order.

In accordance with Executive Order 44, the State of Delaware is committed to supporting its diverse business industry and population. The successful Vendor will be required to accurately report on the participation by Diversity Suppliers which includes: minority (MBE), woman (WBE), veteran owned business (VOBE), or service disabled veteran owned business (SDVOBE) under this awarded contract. The reported data elements shall include but not be limited to; name of state contract/project, the name of the Diversity Supplier, Diversity Supplier contact information (phone, email), type of product or service provided by the Diversity Supplier and any minority, women, veteran, or service disabled veteran certifications for the subcontractor (State OSD certification, Minority Supplier Development Council, Women's Business Enterprise Council, VetBiz.gov). The format used for Subcontracting 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier report is shown as in Attachment 8.

Accurate 2nd tier reports shall be submitted to the contracting Agency's Office of Supplier Diversity at [vendorusage@state.de.us](mailto:vendorusage@state.de.us) on the 15<sup>th</sup> (or next business day) of the month following each quarterly period. For consistency quarters shall be considered to end the last day of March, June, September and December of each calendar year. Contract spend

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during the covered periods shall result in a report even if the contract has expired by the report due date.

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Attachment 1

**NO PROPOSAL REPLY FORM**

Contract No: RFP # HSS-15-029

Contract Title: Purchase of Care Pilot  
Contract To Purchase Slots

To assist us in obtaining good competition on our Request for Proposals, we ask that each firm that has received a proposal, but does not wish to bid, state their reason(s) below and return in a clearly marked envelope displaying the contract number. This information will not preclude receipt of future invitations unless you request removal from the Vendor's List by so indicating below, or do not return this form or bona fide proposal.

Unfortunately, we must offer a "No Proposal" at this time because:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. We do not wish to participate in the proposal process.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. We do not wish to bid under the terms and conditions of the Request for Proposal document. Our objections are:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. We do not feel we can be competitive.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. We cannot submit a Proposal because of the marketing or franchising policies of the early care and education provider.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. We do not wish to sell to the State. Our objections are:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. We do not sell the items/services on which Proposals are requested.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
FIRM NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_ We wish to remain on the Vendor's List **for these goods or services.**

\_\_\_\_\_ We wish to be deleted from the Vendor's List **for these goods or services.**

**CONTRACT NO.:** RFP # HSS-150-029  
**CONTRACT TITLE:** Purchase of Care Pilot Contract to Purchase Slots  
**DEADLINE TO RESPOND:** June 12, 2015 at 11:00 PM (Local Time)

**NON-COLLUSION STATEMENT**

This is to certify that the undersigned Vendor has neither directly nor indirectly, entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with this proposal, **and further certifies that it is not a sub-contractor to another Vendor who also submitted a proposal as a primary Vendor in response to this solicitation** submitted this date to the State of Delaware, Department of Health & Social Services

It is agreed by the undersigned Vendor that the signed delivery of this bid represents, subject to any express exceptions set forth at Attachment 3, the Vendor's acceptance of the terms and conditions of this solicitation including all specifications and special provisions.

**NOTE:** Signature of the authorized representative **MUST** be of an individual who legally may enter his/her organization into a formal contract with the State of Delaware, Division of Social Services.

COMPANY NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Partnership
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual

NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE  
(Please type or print) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL E.I. NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ STATE OF DELAWARE  
LICENSE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY CLASSIFICATIONS:  CERT. NO.: _____	Certification type(s)	Circle all that apply	
	Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)	Yes	No
Woman Business Enterprise (WBE)	Yes	No	
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)	Yes	No	
Veteran Owned Business Enterprise (VOBE)	Yes	No	
Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business Enterprise (SDVOBE)	Yes	No	

[The above table is for informational and statistical use only.]

PURCHASE ORDERS SHOULD BE SENT TO:  
(COMPANY NAME) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFIRMATION:** Within the past five years, has your firm, any affiliate, any predecessor company or entity, owner, Director, officer, partner or proprietor been the subject of a Federal, State, Local government suspension or debarment?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ if yes, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS PAGE SHALL HAVE ORIGINAL SIGNATURE, BE NOTARIZED AND BE RETURNED WITH YOUR PROPOSAL**

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public \_\_\_\_\_ My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

City of \_\_\_\_\_ County of \_\_\_\_\_ State of \_\_\_\_\_





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Attachment 5

Contract No. RFP # HSS-15-029  
Contract Title: Purchase of Care Pilot Contract to Purchase Slots

BUSINESS REFERENCES

List a minimum of three business references, including the following information:

- Business Name and Mailing address
- Contact Name and phone number
- Number of years doing business with
- Type of work performed

Please do not list any State Employee as a business reference. If you have held a State contract within the last 5 years, please provide a separate list of the contract(s).

1.	<b>Contact Name &amp; Title:</b>	
	<b>Business Name:</b>	
	<b>Address:</b>	
	<b>Email:</b>	
	<b>Phone # / Fax #:</b>	
	<b>Current Vendor (YES or NO):</b>	
	<b>Years Associated &amp; Type of Work Performed:</b>	

2.	<b>Contact Name &amp; Title:</b>	
	<b>Business Name:</b>	
	<b>Address:</b>	
	<b>Email:</b>	
	<b>Phone # / Fax #:</b>	
	<b>Current Vendor (YES or NO):</b>	
	<b>Years Associated &amp; Type of Work Performed:</b>	

3.	<b>Contact Name &amp; Title:</b>	
	<b>Business Name:</b>	
	<b>Address:</b>	
	<b>Email:</b>	
	<b>Phone # / Fax #:</b>	
	<b>Current Vendor (YES or NO):</b>	
	<b>Years Associated &amp; Type of Work Performed:</b>	

**STATE OF DELAWARE PERSONNEL MAY NOT BE USED AS REFERENCES.**

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**Attachment 6**

**SUBCONTRACTOR INFORMATION FORM**

<b>PART I – STATEMENT BY PROPOSING VENDOR</b>		
1. CONTRACT NO. RFP# HSS-15-029	2. Proposing Vendor Name:	3. Mailing Address
4. SUBCONTRACTOR		
a. NAME	4c. Company OSD Classification:  Certification Number: _____	
b. Mailing Address:	4d. Women Business Enterprise <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 4e. Minority Business Enterprise <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 4f. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 4g. Veteran Owned Business Enterprise <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 4h. Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business Enterprise <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
5. DESCRIPTION OF WORK BY SUBCONTRACTOR		
6a. NAME OF PERSON SIGNING	7. BY ( <i>Signature</i> )	8. DATE SIGNED
6b. TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING		
<b>PART II – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY SUBCONTRACTOR</b>		
9a. NAME OF PERSON SIGNING	10. BY ( <i>Signature</i> )	11. DATE SIGNED
9b. TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING		

\* Use a separate form for each subcontractor



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Attachment 8

SAMPLE REPORT - FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY

State of Delaware																				
Subcontracting (2nd tier) Quarterly Report																				
Prime Name:							Report Start Date:													
Contract Name/Number							Report End Date:													
Contact Name:							Today's Date:													
Contact Phone:							*Minimum Required		Requested detail											
Vendor Name*	Vendor TaxID*	Contract Name/ Number*	Vendor Contact Name*	Vendor Contact Phone*	Report Start Date*	Report End Date*	Amount Paid to Subcontractor*	Work Performed by Subcontractor UNSPSC	M/WBE Certifying Agency	Veteran /Service Disabled Veteran Certifying Agency	2nd tier Supplier Name	2nd tier Supplier Address	2nd tier Supplier Phone Number	2nd tier Supplier email	Description of Work Performed	2nd tier Supplier Tax Id				

**Note:** A copy of the Subcontracting Quarterly Report will be sent by electronic mail to the Awarded Vendor.

Completed reports shall be saved in an Excel format, and submitted to the following email address: [vendorusage@state.de.us](mailto:vendorusage@state.de.us)

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**Attachment 9**

Contract No: RFP # HSS-15-029  
Contract Title: Purchase of Care Pilot Contract to Purchase Slots

EMPLOYING DELAWAREANS REPORT

As required by House Bill # 410 (Bond Bill) of the 146<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and under Section 30, No bid for any public works or professional services contract shall be responsive unless the prospective bidder discloses its reasonable, good-faith determination of:

1. Number of employees reasonable anticipated to be employed on the project: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Number and percentage of such employees who are bona fide legal residents of Delaware: \_\_\_\_\_  
Percentage of such employees who are bona fide legal residents of Delaware: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Total number of employees of the bidder: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Total percentage of employees who are bona fide resident of Delaware: \_\_\_\_\_

If subcontractors are to be used:

1. Number of employees who are residents of Delaware: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Percentage of employees who are residents of Delaware: \_\_\_\_\_

“Bona fide legal resident of this State” shall mean any resident who has established residence of at least 90 days in the State.

**State of Delaware**  
**Office of Supplier Diversity**  
**Certification Application**

The most recent application can be downloaded from the following site:  
<http://gss.omb.delaware.gov/osd/certify.shtml>

Submission of a completed Office of Supplier Diversity (OSD) application is optional and does not influence the outcome of any award decision.

The minimum criteria for certification require the entity must be at least 51% owned and actively managed by a person or persons who are eligible: minorities, women, veterans, and/or service disabled veterans. Any one or all of these categories may apply to a 51% owner.



**Complete application and mail, email or fax to:**

Office of Supplier Diversity (OSD)  
100 Enterprise Place, Suite 4  
Dover, DE 19904-8202  
Telephone: (302) 857-4554 Fax: (302) 677-7086  
Email: [osd@state.de.us](mailto:osd@state.de.us)  
Web site: <http://gss.omb.delaware.gov/osd/index.shtml>

**THE OSD ADDRESS IS FOR OSD APPLICATIONS ONLY.  
NO BID RESPONSE PACKAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE OSD.**

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**APPENDIX A**  
**MINIMUM MANDATORY SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Each vendor solicitation response should contain at a minimum the following information:

1. Transmittal Letter as specified on page 1 of the Request for Proposal including an Applicant's experience, if any, providing similar services.
2. The remaining vendor proposal package shall identify how the vendor proposes meeting the contract requirements and shall include pricing. Vendors are encouraged to review the Evaluation criteria identified to see how the proposals will be scored and verify that the response has sufficient documentation to support each criteria listed.
3. Pricing as identified in the solicitation
4. One (1) complete, signed and notarized copy of the non-collusion agreement (See Attachment 2). Bid marked "ORIGINAL", **MUST HAVE ORIGINAL SIGNATURES AND NOTARY MARK**. All other copies may have reproduced or copied signatures – Form must be included.
5. One (1) completed RFP Exception form (See Attachment 3) – please check box if no information – Form must be included.
6. One (1) completed Confidentiality Form (See Attachment 4) – please check if no information is deemed confidential – Form must be included.
7. One (1) completed Business Reference form (See Attachment 5) – please provide references other than State of Delaware contacts – Form must be included.
8. One (1) complete and signed copy of the Subcontractor Information Form (See Attachment 6) for each subcontractor – only provide if applicable.
9. One (1) complete Employing Delawareans Report (See Attachment 9)
10. One (1) complete OSD application (See link on Attachment 10) – only provide if applicable

The items listed above provide the basis for evaluating each vendor's proposal. **Failure to provide all appropriate information may deem the submitting vendor as "non-responsive" and exclude the vendor from further consideration.** If an item listed above is not applicable to your company or proposal, please make note in your submission package.

Vendors shall provide proposal packages in the following formats:

1. **One (1) paper copy must be an original copy, marked "ORIGINAL" on the cover, and contain original signatures.**

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2. Eight (8) electronic copies of the vendor proposal saved to CD media disk,. Copy of electronic price file shall be a separate file from all other files on the electronic copy. (If Agency has requested multiple electronic copies, each electronic copy must be on a separate computer disk or media).

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**APPENDIX B**  
**SCOPE OF WORK AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

Refer to Scope of Services Section II starting on page 2

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**APPENDIX C**  
**BIDDERS SIGNATURE FORM**



**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**BIDDERS SIGNATURE FORM**

NAME OF BIDDER: \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_  
TYPE IN NAME OF AUTHORIZED PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE OF AUTHORIZED PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET NAME AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
FAX NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
BIDDER'S FEDERAL EMPLOYERS IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE FOLLOWING MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE VENDOR:**

AS CONSIDERATION FOR THE AWARD AND EXECUTION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES OF THIS CONTRACT, THE (COMPANY NAME) \_\_\_\_\_  
HEREBY GRANTS, CONVEYS, SELLS, ASSIGNS, AND TRANSFERS TO THE STATE OF DELAWARE ALL OF ITS RIGHTS, TITLE AND INTEREST IN AND TO ALL KNOWN OR UNKNOWN CAUSES OF ACTION IT PRESENTLY HAS OR MAY NOW HEREAFTER ACQUIRE UNDER THE ANTITRUST LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF DELAWARE, RELATING THE PARTICULAR GOODS OR SERVICES PURCHASED OR ACQUIRED BY THE DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, PURSUANT TO THIS CONTRACT.

**APPENDIX D**  
**CERTIFICATION SHEET**



**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**CERTIFICATION SHEET**

As the official representative for the proposer, I certify on behalf of the agency that:

- a. They are a regular dealer in the services being procured.
- b. They have the ability to fulfill all requirements specified for development within this RFP.
- c. They have independently determined their prices.
- d. They are accurately representing their type of business and affiliations.
- e. They will secure a Delaware Business License.
- f. They have acknowledged that no contingency fees have been paid to obtain award of this contract.
- g. The Prices in this offer have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement, for the purpose of restricting competition, as to any matter relating to such prices with any other contractor or with any competitor;
- h. Unless otherwise required by Law, the prices which have been quoted in this offer have not been knowingly disclosed by the contractor and prior to the award in the case of a negotiated procurement, directly or indirectly to any other contractor or to any competitor; and

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- i. No attempt has been made or will be made by the contractor in part to other persons or firm to submit or not to submit an offer for the purpose of restricting competition.
- j. They have not employed or retained any company or person (other than a full-time bona fide employee working solely for the contractor) to solicit or secure this contract, and they have not paid or agreed to pay any company or person (other than a full-time bona fide employee working solely for the contractor) any fee, commission percentage or brokerage fee contingent upon or resulting from the award of this contract.
- k. They (check one) operate \_\_\_an individual; \_\_\_a Partnership \_\_\_a non-profit (501 C-3) organization; \_\_\_a not-for-profit organization; or \_\_\_for profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of \_\_\_\_\_.
- l. The referenced offerer has neither directly or indirectly entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with this bid submitted this date to Delaware Health and Social Services.
- m. The referenced bidder agrees that the signed delivery of this bid represents the bidder's acceptance of the terms and conditions of this invitation to bid including all Specifications and special provisions.
- n. They (check one): \_\_\_\_\_are; \_\_\_\_\_are not owned or controlled by a parent company. If owned or controlled by a parent company, enter name and address of parent company:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Violations and Penalties:**

Each contract entered into by an agency for professional services shall contain a prohibition against contingency fees as follows:

- 1. The firm offering professional services swears that it has not employed or retained any company or person working primarily for the firm offering professional services, to solicit or secure this agreement by improperly influencing the agency or any of its employees in the professional service procurement process.

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2. The firm offering the professional services has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual or firm other than a bona fide employee working primarily for the firm offering professional services, any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or any other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this agreement; and
3. For the violation of this provision, the agency shall have the right to terminate the agreement without liability and at its discretion, to deduct from the contract price, or otherwise recover the full amount of such fee, commission, percentage, gift or consideration.

The following conditions are understood and agreed to:

- a. No charges, other than those specified in the cost proposal, are to be levied upon the State as a result of a contract.
- b. The State will have exclusive ownership of all products of this contract unless mutually agreed to in writing at the time a binding contract is executed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature & Title of Official Representative

\_\_\_\_\_

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**APPENDIX E**  
**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**



**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**STATEMENTS OF COMPLIANCE FORM**

As the official representative for the contractor, I certify on behalf of the agency that \_\_\_\_\_ (Company Name) will comply with all Federal and Delaware laws and regulations pertaining to equal employment opportunity and affirmative action. In addition, compliance will be assured in regard to Federal and Delaware laws and regulations relating to confidentiality and individual and family privacy in the collection and reporting of data.

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX F**  
**DHSS CONTRACT BOILER PLATE**

**CONTRACT**

A) Introduction

1. This contract is entered into between the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (the Department), and \_\_\_\_\_ (the Contractor).
2. The Contract shall commence on \_\_\_\_\_ and terminate on \_\_\_\_\_ unless specifically extended by an amendment, signed by all parties to the Contract. Time is of the essence.

B) Administrative Requirements

1. Contractor recognizes that it is operating as an independent Contractor and that it is liable for any and all losses, penalties, damages, expenses, attorney's fees, judgments, and/or settlements incurred by reason of injury to or death of any and all persons, or injury to any and all property, of any nature, arising out of the Contractor's negligent performance under this Contract, and particularly without limiting the foregoing, caused by, resulting from, or arising out of any act of omission on the part of the Contractor in their negligent performance under this Contract.
2. The Contractor shall maintain such insurance as will protect against claims under Worker's Compensation Act and from any other claims for damages for personal injury, including death, which may arise from operations under this Contract. The Contractor is an independent contractor and is not an employee of the State.
3. During the term of this Contract, the Contractor shall, at its own expense, carry insurance with minimum coverage limits as follows:

a) Comprehensive General Liability	\$1,000,000
and	
b) Medical/Professional Liability	\$1,000,000/\$3,000,000
or	
c) Misc. Errors and Omissions	\$1,000,000/\$3,000,000
or	
d) Product Liability	\$1,000,000/\$3,000,000

All contractors must carry (a) and at least one of (b), (c), or (d), depending on the type of service or product being delivered.

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If the contractual service requires the transportation of Departmental clients or staff, the contractor shall, in addition to the above coverage, secure at its own expense the following coverage:

e) Automotive Liability (Bodily Injury)	\$100,000/\$300,000
f) Automotive Property Damage (to others)	\$25,000

Contractor shall be responsible for providing liability insurance for its personnel.

4. The policies required under Paragraph B3 must be written to include Comprehensive General Liability coverage, including Bodily Injury and Property damage insurance to protect against claims arising from the performance of the Contractor and the contractor's subcontractors under this Contract and Medical/Professional Liability coverage when applicable.
5. The Contractor shall provide a Certificate of Insurance as proof that the Contractor has the required insurance. The certificate shall identify the Department and the Division as the "Certificate Holder" and shall be valid for the contract's period of performance as detailed in Paragraph A 2.
6. Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the State, its agents and employees, from any and all liability, suits, actions or claims, together with all reasonable costs and expenses (including attorneys' fees) directly arising out of:
  - a. The negligence or other wrongful conduct of the Contractor, its agents or employees, or
  - b. Contractor's breach of any material provision of this Agreement not cured after due notice and opportunity to cure, provided that
    - i. Contractor shall have been notified promptly in writing by Delaware of any notice of such claim; and
    - ii. Contractor shall have the sole control of the defense of any action on such claim and all negotiations for its settlement or compromise.

If Delaware promptly notifies Contractor in writing of a third party claim against Delaware that any Deliverable infringes a copyright or a trade secret of any third party, Contractor will defend such claim at its expense and will pay any costs or damages that may be finally awarded against Delaware. Contractor will not indemnify Delaware, however, if the claim of infringement is caused by:

- a. Delaware's misuse or modification of the Deliverable;
- b. Delaware's failure to use corrections or enhancements made available by Contractor;

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- c. Delaware's use of the Deliverable in combination with any product or information not owned or developed by Contractor;
  - d. Delaware's distribution, marketing or use for the benefit of third parties of the Deliverable or
  - e. Information, direction, specification, or materials provided by Client or any third party. If any Deliverable is, or in Contractor's opinion is likely to be, held to be infringing, Contractor shall at its expense and option either
    - i. Procure the right for Delaware to continue using it,
    - ii. Replace it with a non-infringing equivalent,
    - iii. Modify it to make it non-infringing.
7. The Contractor acknowledges and accepts full responsibility for securing and maintaining all licenses and permits, including the Delaware business license, as applicable and required by law, to engage in business and provide the goods and/or services to be acquired under the terms of this Contract. The Contractor acknowledges and is aware that Delaware law provides for significant penalties associated with the conduct of business without the appropriate license.
8. The Contractor agrees to comply with all State and Federal licensing standards and all other applicable standards as required to provide service(s) under this Contract, to assure the quality of services provided under this Contract. The Contractor shall immediately notify the Department in writing of any change in the status of any accreditations, licenses, or certifications in any jurisdiction in which they provide Service(s) or conduct business. If this change in status regards the fact that its accreditation, licensure, or certification is suspended, revoked, or otherwise impaired in any jurisdiction, the Contractor understands that such action may be grounds for termination of the Contract.

If a contractor is under the regulation of any Department entity and has been assessed Civil Money Penalties (CMPs), or a court has entered a civil judgment against a Contractor or vendor in a case in which DHSS or its agencies was a party, the Contractor or vendor is excluded from other DHSS contractual opportunities or is at risk of contract termination in whole, or in part, until penalties are paid in full or the entity is participating in a corrective action plan approved by the Department.

A corrective action plan must be submitted in writing and must respond to findings of non-compliance with Federal, State, and Department requirements. Corrective action plans must include timeframes for correcting deficiencies and must be approved, in writing, by the Department.

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The Contractor will be afforded a thirty (30) day period to cure non-compliance with Section 8(a). If, in the sole judgment of the Department, the Contractor has not made satisfactory progress in curing the infraction(s) within the aforementioned thirty (30) days, then the Department may immediately terminate any and/or all active contracts.

9. Contractor, including its parent company and its subsidiaries, and any subcontractor, including its parent company and subsidiaries, agree to comply with all terms, requirements and provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and any other federal, state, or local, law, statute, regulation or applicable policy along with all amendments and revision of these laws, in the performance of this Contract and will not discriminate against any applicant or employee or service recipient because of race, creed, religion, age, sex, color, national or ethnic origin, disability, status as a person in a marriage versus a person in a civil union, veteran's status or any unlawful discriminatory basis or criteria. Contractor agrees to honor the conflict of interest provisions of the Delaware Code of Ethics, 29 *Del. C.* Ch. 58.
10. Contractor has or will retain such employees, as it may need to perform the services required by this Agreement. Such employees shall not be employed by Delaware or any other political subdivision of Delaware.
11. Contractor will not use Delaware's name, either express or implied, in any of its advertising or sales materials without Delaware's express written consent.
12. Contractor warrants that its services will be performed in a good and workmanlike manner. Contractor agrees to re-perform any work not in compliance with this warranty brought to its attention within a reasonable time after that work is performed.

Third-party products within the scope of this Agreement are warranted solely under the terms and conditions of the licenses or other agreements by which such products are governed. With respect to all third-party products and services purchased by Contractor for Delaware in connection with the provision of the Services, Contractor shall pass through or assign to Delaware the rights Contractor obtains from the manufacturers and/or vendors of such products and services (including warranty and indemnification rights), all to the extent that such rights are assignable.

13. This Contract may be terminated in whole or in part by the Department upon five (5) calendar days written notice for cause or documented unsatisfactory performance, provided that, in its sole discretion, the Department may impose sanctions in lieu of termination as set forth in Appendix A attached to and incorporated into this Contract.

This Contract may be terminated in whole or in part by either party in the event of substantial failure of the other party to fulfill its obligations under this Contract through no fault of the terminating party; but only after the other party is given:

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- a. Not less than 30 calendar days written notice of intent to terminate; and
- b. An opportunity for consultation with the terminating party prior to termination.

This Contract may be terminated in whole or in part by the Department for its convenience, but only after Contractor is given:

- a. Not less than 30 calendar days written notice of intent to terminate; and
- b. An opportunity for consultation with The Department prior to termination.

If termination for default is effected by the Department, the Department will pay Contractor that portion of the compensation which has been earned as of the effective date of termination but:

- a. No amount shall be allowed for anticipated profit on performed or unperformed services or other work, and b. Any payment due to Contractor at the time of termination may be adjusted to the extent of any additional costs occasioned to the Department by reason of Contractor's default.
- b. Upon termination for default, the Department may take over the work and prosecute the same to completion by agreement with another party or otherwise. In the event Contractor shall cease conducting business, the Department shall have the right to make an unsolicited offer of employment to any employees of Contractor assigned to the performance of the Contract, notwithstanding any provisions in this document to the contrary.

If after termination for failure of Contractor to fulfill contractual obligations it is determined that Contractor has not so failed, the termination shall be deemed to have been effected for the convenience of the Department.

The rights and remedies of the Department and Contractor provided in this section are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this Contract.

In the event of termination, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, models, maps, photographs, and reports or other material prepared by Contractor under this contract shall, at the option of the Department, become the property of the Department.

In the event of termination, the Contractor, upon receiving the termination notice, shall immediately cease work and refrain from purchasing contract related items unless otherwise instructed by the Department.

The Contractor shall be entitled to receive reasonable compensation as determined by the Department in its sole discretion for any satisfactory work completed on such documents

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and other materials that are usable to the Department. Whether such work is satisfactory and usable is determined by the Department in its sole discretion.

Should the Contractor cease conducting business, become insolvent, make a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, suffer or permit the appointment of a receiver for its business or assets, or shall avail itself of, or become subject to any proceeding under the Federal Bankruptcy Act or any other statute of any state relating to insolvency or protection of the rights of creditors, then at the option of the Department, this Contract shall terminate and be of no further force and effect. Contractor shall notify the Department immediately of such events.

14. The Department may suspend performance by Contractor under this Contract for such period of time as the Department, at its sole discretion, may prescribe by providing written notice to Contractor at least 30 working days prior to the date on which the Department wishes to suspend. Upon such suspension, the Department shall pay Contractor its compensation, based on the percentage of the project completed and earned until the effective date of suspension, less all previous payments. Contractor shall not perform further work under this Contract after the effective date of suspension. Contractor shall not perform further work under this Contract after the effective date of suspension until receipt of written notice from the Department to resume performance.

In the event the Department suspends performance by Contractor for any cause other than the error or omission of the Contractor, for an aggregate period in excess of 30 days, Contractor shall be entitled to an equitable adjustment of the compensation payable to Contractor under this Contract to reimburse for additional costs occasioned as a result of such suspension of performance by the Department based on appropriated funds and approval by the Department.

Any notice required or permitted under this Contract shall be effective upon receipt and may be hand delivered with receipt requested or by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested to the addresses listed below. Either Party may change its address for notices and official formal correspondence upon five (5) days written notice to the other.

To the Department at:

To the Contractor at:

15. In the event of amendments to current Federal or State laws which nullify any term(s) or provision(s) of this Contract, the remainder of the Contract will remain unaffected.

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If any term or provision of this Contract is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal or otherwise unenforceable, the same shall not affect the other terms or provisions hereof or the whole of this Contract, but such term or provision shall be deemed modified to the extent necessary in the court's opinion to render such term or provision enforceable, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced accordingly, preserving to the fullest permissible extent the intent and agreements of the parties herein set forth.

16. This Contract shall not be altered, changed, modified, or amended except by written consent of all Parties to the Contract.
17. The Contractor shall not enter into any subcontract for any portion of the services covered by this Contract without obtaining prior written approval of the Department. Approval by Delaware of Contractor's request to subcontract or acceptance of or payment for subcontracted work by Delaware shall not in any way relieve Contractor of responsibility for the professional and technical accuracy and adequacy of the work. All subcontractors shall adhere to all applicable provisions of this Agreement.

Any such subcontract shall be subject to all the conditions and provisions of this Contract. The approval requirements of this paragraph do not extend to the purchase of articles, supplies, equipment, rentals, leases and other day-to-day operational expenses in support of staff or facilities providing the services covered by this Contract.

18. This entire Contract between the Contractor and the Department is composed of these several pages and the attached:

Appendix A– Divisional Requirements

Appendix B –Contract Budget

Appendix C- Service Description (Scope of Services)

DHSS Request for Proposal (RFP) # HSS-XX-XXX *(if applicable)*

Vendor's Proposal in response to RFP #HSS-XX-XXX *(if applicable)*

This contract and its Appendices shall constitute the entire agreement between The Department and Contractor with respect to the subject matter of this Contract and shall not be modified or changed without the express written consent of the parties. The provisions of this contract supersede all prior oral and written quotations, communications, agreements, and understandings of the parties with respect to the subject matter of this Contract.

Should a conflict arise in the language found among the above-named documents, the documents shall govern in the following order:

- 1) This DHSS Contract
- 2) DHSS Request for Proposal (RFP)# HSS-XX-XXX *(if applicable)*

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- 3) Vendor's Proposal in response to RFP # HSS- XX-XXX *(if applicable)*
- 4) Appendix A- Divisional Requirements
- 5) Appendix B- Contract Budget *(use only if #2 and #3 above are not necessary or do not contain a budget)*
- 6) Appendix C- Service Description (Scope of Services) *(use only if #2 and #3 above are not necessary)*

If the scope of any provision of this Contract is too broad in any respect whatsoever to permit enforcement to its full extent, then such provision shall be enforced to the maximum extent permitted by law, and the parties hereto consent and agree that such scope may be judicially modified accordingly and that the whole of such provisions of the Contract shall not thereby fail, but the scope of such provision shall be curtailed only to the extent necessary to conform to the law.

Contractor may not order any product requiring a purchase order prior to The Department's issuance of such order. Each Appendix, except as its terms otherwise expressly provide, shall be a complete statement of its subject matter and shall supplement and modify the terms and conditions of this Contract for the purposes of that engagement only. No other agreements, representations, warranties or other matters, whether oral or written, shall be deemed to bind the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof.

19. This Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware, except where Federal Law has precedence. Contractor consents to jurisdiction and venue in the State of Delaware.

Except as may be otherwise provided in this contract, all claims, counterclaims, disputes and other matters in question between the Department and Contractor arising out of or relating to this Contract or the breach thereof will be decided by arbitration if the parties hereto mutually agree, or in a court of competent jurisdiction within the State of Delaware.

20. In the event Contractor is successful in an action under the antitrust laws of the United States and/or the State of Delaware against a vendor, supplier, subcontractor, or other party who provides particular goods or services to the Contractor that impact the budget for this Contract, Contractor agrees to reimburse the State of Delaware, Department of Health and Social Services for the pro-rata portion of the damages awarded that are attributable to the goods or services used by the Contractor to fulfill the requirements of this Contract. In the event Contractor refuses or neglects after reasonable written notice by the Department to bring such antitrust action, Contractor shall be deemed to have assigned such action to the Department.
21. Contractor covenants that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interests, direct or indirect, that would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of this Contract. Contractor further covenants that in the performance of this contract, it shall not employ any person having such interest.

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22. Contractor covenants that it has not employed or retained any company or person who is working primarily for the Contractor, to solicit or secure this Contract, by improperly influencing the Department or any of its employees in any professional procurement process; and, the Contractor has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual or firm, other than a bona fide employee working primarily for the Contractor, any fee, commission, percentage, gift or any other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this agreement. For the violation of this provision, the Department shall have the right to terminate the Contract without liability and, at its discretion, to deduct from the contract price, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such fee, commission, percentage, gift, or consideration.
23. The Department shall have the unrestricted authority to publish, disclose, distribute and otherwise use, in whole or in part, any reports, data, or other materials prepared under this Contract. Contractor shall have no right to copyright any material produced in whole or in part under this Contract. Upon the request of the Department, the Contractor shall execute additional documents as are required to assure the transfer of such copyrights to the Department.

Contractor retains all title and interest to the data it furnished and/or generated pursuant to this Agreement. Retention of such title and interest does not conflict with Delaware's rights to the materials, information, and documents developed in performing the project. Upon final payment, Delaware shall have a perpetual, nontransferable, non-exclusive paid-up right and license to use, copy, modify, and prepare derivative works of all materials in which Contractor retains title, whether individually by Contractor or jointly with Delaware. Any and all source code developed in connection with the services provided will be provided to Delaware, and the aforementioned right and license shall apply to source code. The parties will cooperate with each other and execute such other documents as may be reasonably deemed necessary to achieve the objectives of this Section.

If the use of any services or deliverables is prohibited by court action based on a U.S. patent or copyright infringement claim, Contractor shall, at its own expense, buy for the Department the right to continue using the services or deliverables or modify or replace the product with no material loss in use, at the option of the Department.

24. Contractor agrees that no information obtained pursuant to this Contract may be released in any form except in compliance with applicable laws and policies on the confidentiality of information and except as necessary for the proper discharge of the Contractor's obligations under this Contract.
25. Waiver of any default shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any subsequent default. Waiver or breach of any provision of this Contract shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any other or subsequent breach and shall not be construed to be a modification of the terms of the Contract unless stated to be such in writing, signed by authorized representatives of all parties and attached to the original Contract.

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26. If the amount of this contract listed in Paragraph C2 is over \$25,000, the Contractor, by their signature in Section E, is representing that the Firm and/or its Principals, along with its subcontractors and assignees under this Contract, are not currently subject to either suspension or debarment from Procurement and Non-Procurement activities by the Federal Government.

C) Financial Requirements

1. The rights and obligations of each Party to this Contract are not effective and no Party is bound by the terms of this contract unless, and until, a validly executed Purchase Order is approved by the Secretary of Finance and received by Contractor, *if required by the State of Delaware Budget and Accounting Manual*, and all policies and procedures of the Department of Finance have been met. The obligations of the Department under this Contract are expressly limited to the amount of any approved Purchase Order. The State will not be liable for expenditures made or services delivered prior to Contractor's receipt of the Purchase Order.

2. Total payments under this Contract shall not exceed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in accordance with the budget presented in Appendix C. Payment will be made upon receipt of an itemized invoice from the Contractor in accordance with the payment schedule, if any. The contractor or vendor must accept full payment by procurement (credit) card and or conventional check and/or other electronic means at the State's option, without imposing any additional fees, costs, or conditions. Contractor is responsible for costs incurred in excess of the total cost of this Contract and the Department is not responsible for such costs.

Contractor shall submit monthly invoices to Delaware in sufficient detail to support the services provided during the previous month. Delaware agrees to pay those invoices within thirty (30) days of receipt. In the event Delaware disputes a portion of an invoice, Delaware agrees to pay the undisputed portion of the invoice within thirty (30) days of receipt and to provide Contractor a detailed statement of Delaware's position on the disputed portion of the invoice within thirty (30) days of receipt.

3. Validity and enforcement of this Contract is subject to appropriations by the General Assembly of the specific funds necessary for contract performance. Should such funds not be so appropriated the Department may immediately terminate this Contract, and absent such action this Contract shall be terminated as to any obligation of the State requiring the expenditure of money for which no specific appropriation is available, at the end of the last fiscal year for which no appropriation is available or upon the exhaustion of funds.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Contract, this Contract shall terminate and the Department's obligations under it shall be extinguished at the end of the fiscal year in

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which the state of Delaware fails to appropriate monies for the ensuing fiscal year sufficient for the payment of all amounts, which will then become due.

4. Delaware is a sovereign entity, and shall not be liable for the payment of federal, state and local sales, use and excise taxes, including any interest and penalties from any related deficiency, which may become due and payable as a consequence of this Agreement.
5. The Contractor is solely responsible for the payment of all amounts due to all subcontractors and suppliers of goods, materials, or services, which may have been acquired by or provided to the Contractor in the performance of this contract. The Department is not responsible for the payment of such subcontractors or suppliers.

Unless provided otherwise in an Appendix, all expenses incurred in the performance of the services are to be paid by Contractor. If an Appendix specifically provides for expense reimbursement, Contractor shall be reimbursed only for reasonable expenses incurred by Contractor in the performance of the services, including, but not necessarily limited to, travel and lodging expenses, communications charges, and computer time and supplies.

6. The Contractor shall not assign the Contract or any portion thereof without prior written approval of the Department and subject to such conditions and revisions as the Department may deem necessary. No such approval by the Department of any assignment shall be deemed to provide for the incurrence of any obligations of the Department in addition to the total agreed upon price of the Contract.
7. Contractor shall maintain books, records, documents and other evidence directly pertinent to performance under this Contract in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and practices. Contractor shall also maintain the financial information and data used by Contractor in the preparation of support of its bid or proposal. Contractor shall retain this information for a period of five (5) years from the date services were rendered by the Contractor. Records involving matters in litigation shall be retained for one (1) year following the termination of such litigation. The Department shall have access to such books, records, documents, and other evidence for the purpose of inspection, auditing, and copying during normal business hours of the Contractor after giving reasonable notice. Contractor will provide facilities for such access and inspection.
8. The Contractor agrees that any submission by or on behalf of the Contractor of any claim for payment by the Department shall constitute certification by the Contractor that the services or items for which payment is claimed were actually rendered by the Contractor or its agents, and that all information submitted in support of the claims is true, accurate, and complete.

All invoices, reports, documents provided in response to an audit, and any documentation provided to the Department pursuant to any contractual obligation as set forth herein ,including any chart or compilation of data, report, or other document produced by the

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Contractor for presentment to the Department shall contain, in a prominently displayed location, the following written certification:

***“I hereby certify that the information reported herein is true, accurate, and complete. I understand that these reports are made in support of claims for government funds.”***

Any certification related to information and documents produced to the Department shall be certified only by the Contractor’s Contract Manager

9. The cost of any Contract audit disallowances resulting from the examination of the Contractor's financial records will be borne by the Contractor. Reimbursement to the Department for disallowances shall be drawn from the Contractor's own resources and not charged to Contract costs or cost pools indirectly charging Contract costs.
10. When the Department desires any addition or deletion to the deliverables or a change in the services to be provided under this Contract, it shall so notify the Contractor. The Department will develop a Contract Amendment authorizing said change. The Amendment shall state whether the change shall cause an alteration in the price or time required by the Contractor for any aspect of its performance under the Contract. Pricing of changes shall be consistent with those prices or costs established within this Contract. Such amendment shall not be effective until executed by all Parties.

D) Miscellaneous Requirements

1. *If applicable*, the Contractor agrees to adhere to the requirements of DHSS Policy Memorandum # 46, (PM #46, effective 3/11/05), and divisional procedures regarding the reporting and investigation of suspected abuse, neglect, mistreatment, misappropriation of property and significant injury of residents/clients receiving services, including providing testimony at any administrative proceedings arising from such investigations. The policy and procedures are included as Appendix \_\_\_\_\_ to this Contract. It is understood that adherence to this policy includes the development of appropriate procedures to implement the policy and ensuring staff receive appropriate training on the policy requirements. The Contractor’s procedures must include the position(s) responsible for the PM46 process in the provider agency. The Contractor must maintain documentation of staff training on PM46.
2. *When required by Law*, Contractor shall conduct child abuse and adult abuse registry checks and obtain service letters in accordance with 19 Del. Code Section 708; and 11 Del. Code, Sections 8563 and 8564. Contractor shall not employ individuals with adverse registry findings in the performance of this contract.

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3. *If applicable*, the Contractor agrees to adhere to the requirements of DHSS Policy Memorandum # 40 (PM #40, effective 3/10/2008), and divisional procedures regarding conducting criminal background checks and handling adverse findings of the criminal background checks. This policy and procedure are included as Appendix \_\_\_\_\_ to this Contract. It is understood that adherence to this policy includes the development of appropriate procedures to implement the policy and ensuring staff receive appropriate training on the policy requirements. The Contractor's procedures must include the title of the position(s) responsible for the PM40 process in the contractor's agency.
  
4. *If applicable*, the Contractor agrees to adhere to the requirements of DHSS Policy Memorandum # 36 (PM #36, effective 9/24/2008), and divisional procedures regarding minimal requirements of contractors who are engaging in a contractual agreement to develop community based residential arrangements for those individuals served by Divisions within DHSS. This policy and procedure are included as Appendix \_\_\_\_\_ to this Contract. It is understood that adherence to this policy includes individuals/entities that enter into a contractual arrangement (*contractors*) with the DHSS/Division to develop a community based residential home(s) and apartment(s). Contractors shall be responsible for their subcontractors' adherence with this policy and related protocol(s) established by the applicable Division.
  
5. All Department campuses are tobacco-free. Contractors, their employees, and sub-contractors are prohibited from using any tobacco products while on Department property. This prohibition extends to personal vehicles parked in Department parking lots.

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E) Authorized Signatures:

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Contract to be duly executed as of the date and year first above written.

For the Contractor:

19.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

For the Department:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rita M. Landgraf  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

For the Division:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

APPENDIX A

DIVISIONAL REQUIREMENTS

**Sanctions**

- 1) In the event that Contractor fails to complete the project or any phase thereof within the time specified in the Contract, or with such additional time as may be granted in writing by Delaware, or fails to prosecute the work, or any separable part thereof, with such diligence as will insure its completion within the time specified in this Agreement or any extensions thereof, Delaware may suspend the scheduled payments.
- 2) The Division reserves the right to reduce the number of people a Contractor currently serves, restrict the number of referrals a Contractor may receive, or rescind authorization to operate one or more service sites (e.g., neighborhood home, apartment) or any combination of such measures as sanctions for documented unsatisfactory contract performance as determined by the Division. The Division may impose such sanctions for a period of between 30 to 365 days, with the right to renew the sanctions at the Division's sole discretion.

**Vendor Responsibilities** *(This clause may be most useful in IT and IT-related contracts and not as useful in other types of contracts.)*

- 1) Contractor shall be responsible for the professional quality, technical accuracy, timely completion, and coordination of all services furnished by Contractor, its subcontractors, and its and their principals, officers, employees and agents under this Agreement. In performing the specified services, Contractor shall follow practices consistent with generally accepted professional and technical standards. Contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that all services, products and deliverables furnished pursuant to this Agreement comply with the applicable standards promulgated by the Department of Technology and Information ("DTI") published at <http://dti.delaware.gov/>, and as modified from time to time by DTI during the term of this Agreement. If any service, product or deliverable furnished pursuant to this Agreement does not conform to DTI standards, Contractor shall, at its expense and option either (1) replace it with a conforming equivalent or (2) modify it to conform to DTI standards. Contractor shall be and remain liable in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and applicable law for all damages to Delaware caused by Contractor's failure to ensure compliance with DTI standards.
  - a. It shall be the duty of the Contractor to assure that all products of its effort are technically sound and in conformance with all pertinent Federal, State and Local statutes, codes, ordinances, resolutions and other regulations. Contractor will not produce a work product that violates or infringes on any copyright or patent rights. Contractor shall, without additional compensation, correct or revise any errors or omissions in its work products.

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- b. Permitted or required approval by Delaware of any products or services furnished by Contractor shall not in any way relieve Contractor of responsibility for the professional and technical accuracy and adequacy of its work. Delaware's review, approval, acceptance, or payment for any of Contractor's services herein shall not be construed to operate as a waiver of any rights under this Agreement or of any cause of action arising out of the performance of this Agreement, and Contractor shall be and remain liable in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and applicable law for all damages to Delaware caused by Contractor's performance or failure to perform under this Agreement.
  
- c. Contractor shall appoint a Project Manager who will manage the performance of services. All of the services specified by this Agreement shall be performed by the Project Manager, or by Contractor's associates and employees under the personal supervision of the Project Manager. The positions anticipated include:

Project Name:

Team Title:

% of Project Involvement:

*(add additional information as needed)*

Designation of persons for each position is subject to review and approval by Delaware. Should the staff need to be diverted off the project for what are now unforeseeable circumstances, Contractor will notify Delaware immediately and work out a transition plan that is acceptable to both parties, as well as agree to an acceptable replacement plan to fill or complete the work assigned to this project staff position. Replacement staff persons are subject to review and approval by Delaware. If Contractor fails to make a required replacement within 30 days, Delaware may terminate this Agreement for default. Upon receipt of written notice from Delaware that an employee of Contractor is unsuitable to Delaware for good cause, Contractor shall remove such employee from the performance of services and substitute in his/her place a suitable employee.

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**Between**  
**Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)**  
**And**  
**(Community Partner Agency)**

The Department of Health and Social Services and the (Community Partner) share a mutual vision of advocacy and programmatic mission to enhance the independence, dignity and well-being of the persons who seek services from our respective agencies. Since DHSS and (Community Partner) also share many clients, we agree to work collaboratively to promote policies and programs which:

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1. Expand opportunities for our consumers to continue a meaningful participation in all aspects of American society.
2. Protect the rights and benefits of all consumers.
3. Provide services in a holistic manner to assure that needs required outside of each agency's service programs are addressed by connecting the consumer to the agencies providing the necessary services.

## **I. PARTIES**

This Agreement is made between the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (hereinafter "DHSS" or "the Department"), the Division of Social Services (hereinafter "DSS"), the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (hereinafter "DMMA"), and the Community Partner Agency (hereinafter "Community Partner").

## **II. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth the responsibilities of each of the Parties when assisting applicants ("Applicant or Applicants") to complete and submit applications for the services available through the Application for Social Services Internet Screening Tool (ASSIST). In addition, this Agreement sets forth the responsibilities of the Community Partner with respect to access to the Community Partner Dashboard of ASSIST. Such access may be permitted to assist in the completion of applications for:

1. DSS- or DMMA-sponsored public assistance
2. National School Lunch Program (NSLP),
3. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and
4. The Food Bank of Delaware (FBD).

## **III. INTRODUCTION**

Federal and state laws allow for the use and disclosure of information concerning applicants and recipients of public assistance and health care benefits but place strict guidelines on the release of this information. 42 USC § 602 (a)(1)(A)(iv); 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(7); 7 CFR § 272.1 (c)(1); 42 CFR § 431.300; 45 CFR Part 160; 45 CFR Part 164; 45 CFR § 205.50; DSSM 1003; The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) (42 U.S.C. 1751) as amended through P.L. 108-269, July 2, 2004, Section 9 (b)(6); CMS Information Exchange Agreement No. 2013 – 03. The information to be released pursuant to this Agreement is necessary for the effective administration of the application process under ASSIST to the citizens of Delaware.

## **IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT**

1. Designation of staff contact - The Department will designate one liaison to serve as the single point of contact for purposes of this Agreement.
2. DHSS agrees to provide the Community Partner with inquiry access to ASSIST applications submitted and update access to applications pending by their registered users. Pending ASSIST applications are available for access for up to 180 days following the date of initiation or update. Submitted ASSIST applications are available for up to 180 days after they are submitted. DHSS will provide the Community Partner with the following information:
  - \* the number of applications submitted by individual employees for the month

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- \* the number of applications submitted by the agency for the month
  - \* the number of applications submitted in each county for the month
  - \* the number of applications submitted for each benefit type
- DHSS will be enhancing the application to provide aggregate information regarding application outcomes in the future once a Community Partner submits a minimum number of applications.

**V. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMUNITY PARTNER**

1. The Community Partner meets the criteria to become a Community Partner as defined in Appendix I, Community Partner Criteria.
2. Designation of staff contact - The Community Partner hereby designates Agency Representative as the liaison with the Department on all issues relevant to this Agreement until the Department receives prior written notice of a different designee. The designee for the Community Partner shall be that entity's high-ranking individual having decision-making authority.
3. The Community Partner agrees to accept responsibility to fully report any and all information provided by the client subject to penalty for failure to do so.
4. The Community Partner understands and agrees that all information obtained or disclosed through implementation of this Agreement is confidential. The Community Partner agrees not to disclose any such information obtained or disclosed through this Agreement with the Department without express prior written approval from the Department. The Community Partner further acknowledges and agrees that the use or disclosure of the confidential information for research or purposes other than as intended for purposes of this Agreement is strictly prohibited by state and federal law, and subject to penalty as described in 7 CFR 245.6 (f)(8).
5. The Community Partner agrees to ensure that its agents, employees, and other designees and assignees will agree to all provisions of this Agreement, and in furtherance thereof will require all agents, employees, and other designees and assigns who will be accessing the confidential information to sign the attached Appendix II, User Confidentiality Agreement, to evidence their understanding and agreement.
6. The Community Partner will ensure that its agents, employees, and other designees and assignees will use the confidential information only for implementation and administration of this Agreement.
7. The Community Partner and its agents, employees, and other designees and assignees acknowledge their obligation to properly instruct any person having access to the confidential information as to security requirements and obligations, and to inform persons having access that they are bound by the confidentiality provisions of this Agreement. Such access by others shall be

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only upon the approval of the Department.

8. The Community Partner must inform all its agents, employees, and other designees and assignees that violation of this Agreement may result in disciplinary action, including discharge or criminal prosecution if the agent, employee, or other designee or assignee knowingly uses the information for fraudulent purposes.
9. The Community Partner must inform the Department immediately if an agent, employee, or other designee or assignee, who had access to ASSIST Community Partner Dashboard, has severed or been severed from any relationship with the Community Partner or has left employment, or other position with the Community Partner.
10. The Community Partner must require its agent, employee, or other designee or assignee to verify clients' identities by reviewing a valid form of client identification as listed in the Division of Social Services Manual §9032.7.
11. The Community Partner agrees to comply with federal and state laws, rules and regulations, and the DSS and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy relative to nondiscrimination. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

**VI. CONFIDENTIALITY**

The Department and the Community Partner shall protect the confidentiality of information obtained or accessed in the implementation of this Agreement. The use of the confidential information is confined to activities that are essential for the purposes of this Agreement.

**VII. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Any breach of this Agreement may prevent the Department from any further cooperation with the Community Partner and prevent any further use or access to the disclosed information.
2. The Community Partner and its agents, employees, and other designees and assignees agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Department, the

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State of Delaware, and their employees and officials for any loss, damages, judgments, and costs of liability arising from the release or use of the confidential information obtained or accessed through implementation and administration of this Agreement or for the Community Partner's inability to obtain access to the ASSIST database.

3. The Community Partner and its agents, employees, and other designees and assignees agree to maintain separation of duties between legal staff and application assistance staff to avoid conflict of interest concerns.
4. When the Community Partner no longer requires access to ASSIST, or is no longer involved in the implementation of this Agreement, this Agreement will terminate by its own terms. The obligations of this Agreement will survive the termination, for any reason, of this Agreement.
5. The Community Partner may not use the confidential information for any purpose other than the implementation and administration of this Agreement.
6. This Agreement may be cancelled immediately by the Department upon discovery of unauthorized use of confidential information by the Community Partner. In any event this Agreement may be cancelled by the Community Partner with thirty days prior written notice. The Department may, at their sole discretion, cancel this agreement at any time.

**VIII. CONTACT PERSONS:** The primary and secondary contact for the Community Partner should be individuals who will authorize user access to ASSIST on behalf of your agency. These individuals are not required to be the representative who signs the MOU on behalf of the Community Partner agency.

**Contact Person for the Division of Social Services:**

Name: Ray Fitzgerald

Address: 1901 N. DuPont Hwy.  
Lewis Bldg.  
New Castle, DE 19720

Phone Number: 302-255-9645  
302-255-9567

Fax Number: 302-255-4433

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E-mail address: ray.fitzgerald@state.de.us

**Primary Contact Person for the Community Partner:**

Name:

Organization

Address:

Federal Identification  
Number (FEIN) :

Phone Number:

Fax Number

E-mail address:

**Secondary Contact Person for the Community Partner:**

Name:

Organization

Address:

Federal Identification  
Number (FEIN) :

Phone Number:

Fax Number

E-mail address:

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**SIGNATURE PAGE**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, intending to be legally bound, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be executed as of the dates indicated below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
For DSS

\_\_\_\_\_  
For the Community Partner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
For DMMA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Appendix I**

**Community Partner Criteria**

**Community Partners Can Be**

1. Licensed health care providers (hospitals, doctors, clinics, psychologists) or other agents who help Delaware residents apply for social or medical services or financial benefits.
2. Organized religious and civic groups or their agents who help Delaware residents apply for social or medical services or financial benefits.
3. Utility companies or their agents who help Delaware residents apply for social or medical services or financial benefits.
4. A government program that is helping Delaware residents receive public benefits or apply for social or medical services or financial benefits.

**Community Partners May Not Be**

1. Organizations whose primary business is the collection of debts.
2. Currently subject to either suspension or debarment from Procurement and Non-Procurement activities by the Federal Government.
3. Any organization whose business does not include helping Delaware residents apply for social services.

**Community Partners Must**

1. Serve Delaware residents.
2. Be able to comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations in their role as a community partner including confidentiality and non-discrimination requirements.
3. Have personnel available to access ASSIST community partner dashboard in order to work with Delaware residents applying for benefits.

**Appendix II**

**User Confidentiality Agreement**

The value and sensitivity of certain information is protected by law and by the strict policies of the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Social Services and Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (collectively, the Department). The intent of these laws and policies is to assure that confidential information will remain confidential and will be used ONLY as necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Memorandum of Understanding to which this User Confidentiality Agreement is appended. Information that is confidential may include, but is not limited to, financial, health, medical, eligibility, employee, intellectual property, contractual and information of a competitive advantage nature.

As a condition to receiving a computer sign-on ID and password code (password) and being allowed access to a system, including authorization to access any form of confidential information identified above, I, the undersigned, agree to comply with the following terms and conditions:

1. My ID and password is equivalent to my LEGAL SIGNATURE and I will not disclose this code to anyone, write this code down, or allow anyone to access the system using my password.
2. I am responsible and accountable for all entries made and all retrievals accessed under my ID and password, even if such action was made by another due to my intentional or negligent act or omission.
3. I will keep confidential any data or information to which I have gained access through the Memorandum of Understanding.
4. I will not attempt to learn or use another's password.
5. I will not access any on-line computer system using an ID and password other than my own.
6. If I have reason to believe that the confidentiality of my password has been compromised, I will immediately change my password and notify my supervisor.
7. I will not access or request any information that is not necessary for the performance of my responsibilities under the Memorandum of Understanding.
8. I will not access, use or disclose any confidential information unless required to do so in the official capacity of my employment or contract.

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9. I understand that I have no right or ownership interest in any information acquired through facilitating applications through ASSIST.
10. I will secure a computer application (ASSIST) to the extent that no one else will be able to access, use, or view the data.
11. I will comply with all policies and procedures and other rules of the Department relating to confidentiality of information and passwords.
12. I understand that my use of ASSIST will be periodically monitored to ensure compliance with this Agreement.
13. I will limit disclosure only to parties with a legitimate need in the performance of the purposes of the Memorandum of Understanding. The Department will determine legitimate need.
14. I agree that disclosure of confidential information is prohibited indefinitely, even after the termination of employment or the business relationship, unless specifically waived in writing by the Department.

I have read and understand this entire nondisclosure Agreement and agree to abide by it. I understand that if I violate any of the above terms, I may be subject to disciplinary action, including discharge, loss of privileges, termination of contract, legal action for monetary damages or injunction, or both, or any other remedy available to the Department. I understand that I may be subject to criminal prosecution if I knowingly and intentionally disclose the information to anyone who is unauthorized or use the data for fraudulent purposes.

User's Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

User's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_