



*Saving Delaware History*

## **State of Delaware**

**Tree Trimming, Pruning and Removal Services**

**Request for Proposal**

**Contract No. STA19100-TREESRVC**

*November 1, 2018*

**- Deadline to Respond -  
November 27, 2018  
1:00 PM (Local Time)**

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

**CONTRACT NO. STA19100-TREESRVC**

ALL VENDORS:

The enclosed packet contains a "REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL" for Tree Trimming, Pruning and Removal Services. The proposal consists of the following:

**Contents:**

- I. INTRODUCTION
- II. SCOPE OF WORK
- III. FORMAT FOR PROPOSAL
- IV. PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCEDURES
- V. MANDATORY PREBID MEETING
- VI. DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS
- VII. PROPOSAL REPLY SECTION

**ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A – STATEMENT OF WORK AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Appendix B – PRICING FORMS

**\*\* [Ctrl+Click on the headings above will take you directly to the section.](#)**

In order for your proposal to be considered, the Proposal Reply Section shall be executed completely and correctly and returned in a sealed envelope **clearly displaying the contract number and vendor name** by **November 27, 2018 at 1:00 PM** (Local Time) to be considered.

**Proposals must be mailed to:**

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
21 The Green  
Dover, DE 19901

Please review and follow the information and instructions contained in the General Provisions and this Request for Proposal (RFP). Should you need additional information, please call Vicki Macklin at (302) 736-7405 or email [vicki.macklin@state.de.us](mailto:vicki.macklin@state.de.us).

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Request for Proposal is to obtain sealed proposals for Tree Trimming, Pruning and Removal Services including stump grinding.

It is the goal of this Request for Proposal to identify a vendor(s) and execute a contract to award to multiple contractors who are responsible bidders whose bid proposals, conforming to this RFP are most advantageous to the State, price and all other factors considered.

### 1. COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSAL

It has been determined by Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, pursuant to **Delaware Code Title 29, Chapter 6924 (a)** that this solicitation be offered as a request for competitive sealed proposals because the use of competitive sealed bidding is not practical and/or not in the best interest of the State. The use of competitive sealed proposals is necessary to:

- Use a contract other than a fixed-price type; or
- Conduct oral or written discussions with vendors concerning technical and price aspects of their proposals; or
- Afford vendors an opportunity to revise their proposals through best and final offers; or
- Compare the different price, quality and contractual factors of the proposals submitted; or
- Award a contract in which price is not the determining factor.

### 2. CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

This contract will be issued to cover the requirements for Historical and Cultural Affairs.

### 3. AGENCY USE CONTRACT

Pursuant to 29 Del. C. [§6904](#)(e) respectively, 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.

### 4. MULTIPLE SOURCE AWARD

The Agency reserves the right to award this contract to more than one vendor pursuant to 29 Del.C. [§6926](#). Historical and Cultural Affairs reserves the right to reject any or all bids in whole or in part, to make multiple awards, partial awards, award by types, item by item, or lump sum total, whichever may be most advantageous to the Department of State.

### 5. POTENTIAL CONTRACT OVERLAP

Vendors shall be advised that the State, at its sole discretion, shall retain the right to solicit for goods and/or services as required by its agencies and as it serves the best interest of the State. As needs are identified, there may exist instances where contract deliverables, and/or goods or services to be solicited and subsequently awarded, overlap previous awards. The State reserves the right to reject any or all bids in whole or in part, to make partial awards, to award to multiple vendors during the

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

same period, to award by types, on a zone-by-zone basis or on an item-by-item or lump sum basis item by item, or lump sum total, whichever may be most advantageous to the State of Delaware.

**6. CONTRACT PERIOD**

Each Vendor's contract shall be valid for one (1) year period from March 1, 2019 – February 29, 2020. Each contract may be renewed for four (4) one (1) year periods through negotiation between the Vendor and Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. Negotiation may be initiated no later than ninety (90) days prior to the termination of the current agreement.

The State reserves the right to extend this contract on a month-to-month basis for a period of up to three months after the term of the full contract has been completed.

**B. KEY RFP DATES/MILESTONES**

The following dates and milestones apply to this RFP and subsequent contract award. Vendors are advised that these dates and milestones are not absolute and may change due to unplanned events during the bid proposal and award process.

Activity	Due Date
RFP Availability to Vendors	November 1, 2018
Written Questions Due No Later Than (NLT)	November 15, 2018
Written Answers Due/Posted to Website NLT	November 20, 2018
Proposals Due NLT	November 27, 2018
Public Proposal Opening	November 27, 2018 @ 1:00 pm
Proposal Evaluation/Presentations as required	
Vendor Best & Final Discussions, as required	
Contract Award	Will occur within 90 days of bid opening

**C. INQUIRIES & QUESTIONS**

We welcome your interest in working with us, and we will be pleased to answer any questions you may have in formulating your response to this Request for Proposal.

All questions with regard to the interpretation of this solicitation, drawings, or specifications, or any other aspect of this RFP must be received in writing by November 15, 2018. All questions will be answered in writing by November 20, 2018 and posted on <http://bids.delaware.gov> website. All questions must make specific reference to the section(s) and page numbers from this RFP where applicable. Oral explanations or instructions will not be binding.

**D. 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.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

**Vicki Macklin**  
**Support Services Administrator**  
**21 The Green, Dover, DE 19901**  
**Vicki.Macklin@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.

**E. CONTACT WITH STATE EMPLOYEE**

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.

**II. SCOPE OF WORK**

**A. OVERVIEW**

The Vendor(s) shall provide all equipment, materials and labor to supplement the State of Delaware's need for Tree Trimming, Pruning and Removal Services as described herein. The contract will require the Vendor(s) to cooperate with Historical and Cultural Affairs to insure the State receives the most current state-of-the-art material and/or services.

**B. DETAILED REQUIREMENTS**

The technical requirements of this RFP are stated in Appendix A. Vendors must provide pricing for the items listed in the Excel Spreadsheet, Appendix B.

**III. FORMAT FOR PROPOSAL**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

This section prescribes the mandatory format for the presentation of a proposal in response to this RFP. Each Vendor must provide every component listed in the order shown in this RFP, using the format prescribed for each component. A proposal may be rejected if it is incomplete or conditional.

**B. PROPOSAL RESPONSE**

The Request for Proposal may contain pre-printed forms for use by the vendor in submitting its proposal. The forms required by this solicitation shall be considered mandatory, prevailing documents.

When preprinted forms are used, the forms shall contain basic information such as description of the item and the estimated quantities and shall have blank spaces for use by the vendor for entering information such as unit bid price, total bid price, as applicable.

The Vendor's proposal shall be written in ink or typewritten on the form provided, and any corrections or erasures MUST be initialed by vendor's representative completing the bid submission.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

If items are listed with a zero quantity, Vendor shall state unit price ONLY (intended for open end purchases where estimated requirements are not known). The proposal shall show a total bid price for each item bid and the total bid price of the proposal excluding zero quantity items.

Vendors' proposal must respond to each and every requirement outlined in the RFP criteria in order to be considered responsive. Proposals must be clear and concise.

**C. 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.

**D. 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.

**E. COVER LETTER**

Each proposal will have a cover letter on the letterhead of the company or organization submitting the proposal. The cover letter must briefly summarize the Vendor's ability to provide the services specified in the RFP. The cover letter shall be signed by a representative who has the legal capacity to enter the organization into a formal contract with DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

**F. TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Each proposal must include a Table of Contents with page numbers for each of the required components of the proposal.

**G. DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES AND QUALIFICATIONS**

Each proposal must contain a detailed description of how the Vendor will provide the goods and services outlined in this RFP. This part of the proposal may also include descriptions of any enhancements or additional services or qualifications the Vendor will provide that are not mentioned in this RFP.

**H. DISCOUNT**

Vendors are invited to offer in their proposal value added discounts (i.e. speed to pay discounts for specific payment terms). Cash or separate discounts should be computed and incorporated into unit bid price(s).

**I. SAMPLES OR BROCHURES**

Samples or brochures may be required by the agency for evaluation purposes. They shall be such as to permit the Agency to compare and determine if the item offered complies with the intent of the specifications.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

**J. 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.

**K. BID BOND REQUIREMENT**

**The Bid Bond requirement has been waived.**

**L. PERFORMANCE BOND REQUIREMENT**

**The Performance Bond requirement has been waived.**

**M. NUMBER OF COPIES WITH MAILING OF PROPOSAL**

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 three (3) paper copies and one (1) electronic copies on CD or DVD media disk. One of the copies shall be marked "Master Copy" and will contain original signatures in all locations requiring an vendor signature. The remaining copies do not require original signatures. CD or DVD media disk must also contain the completed Appendix B Excel sheets, in Excel format.

All properly sealed and marked proposals are to be sent to the State of Delaware and received no later than 1:00 PM (Local Time) on November 27, 2018. The Proposals may be delivered by Express Delivery (e.g., FedEx, UPS, etc.), US Mail, or by hand to:

**Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
Vicki Macklin, Support Service Administrator  
21 The Green  
Dover, DE 19901**

Any proposal submitted by US Mail shall be sent by either certified or registered mail. Any proposal received after the date and time deadline referenced above 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.

The State reserves the right to award the proposed contract to multiple Vendors if the Head of the Agency determines that such an award is in the best interest of the State.

**N. PROPOSAL EXPIRATION DATE**

Prices quoted in the proposal shall remain fixed and binding on the bidder at least through contract end date February 29, 2020. Delaware reserves the right to ask for an extension of time if needed.

**O. WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS**

A Vendor may withdraw its proposal unopened after it has been deposited, if such a request is made prior to the time set for the opening of the proposal.

**P. PROPOSAL MODIFICATIONS**

Any changes, amendments or modifications to a submitted proposal requires that the original proposal be withdrawn, **prior** to the time set for the submission of the proposal, and a new proposal submitted **prior** to the deadline for submission of proposals.

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.

**Q. 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.

**R. ADDENDA TO THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP, revisions will be posted at <http://bids.delaware.gov/>. By submitting an offer to the State, vendors have acknowledged receipt, understanding and commitment to comply with all materials, revisions, and addenda related to the Request for Proposal.

**S. INCURRED EXPENSES**

The State will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by the vendor in preparing and submitting a proposal.

**T. ECONOMY OF PREPARATION**

Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straight-forward, concise description of the Vendor's offer to meet the requirements of the RFP.

**U. 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.



STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

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, no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the time set for opening of the proposals.

**V. EXCEPTIONS**

Bidders may elect to take **minor exception** to the terms and conditions of this RFP by completing Attachment 3. Historical and Cultural Affairs shall evaluate each exception according to the intent of the terms and conditions contained herein, but Historical and Cultural Affairs must reject exceptions that do not conform to State bid law and/or create inequality in the treatment of bidders. Exceptions shall be considered only if they are submitted with the bid or before the date and time of the bid opening.

**Exceptions must be submitted utilizing Attachment 3 to be considered.** Exceptions listed elsewhere in the Vendor's proposal will not be considered. Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs maintains sole discretion to reject any vendor exceptions that are submitted.

**W. BUSINESS REFERENCES**

Business references are to be provided via Attachment 6.

**X. DOCUMENT(S) EXECUTION**

All vendors must complete and submit with its proposal the non-collusion statement that is enclosed with this Request for Proposal labeled as Attachment 2. The awarded vendor(s) will be presented with the contract form for signature and seal, if appropriate. Both of these documents shall be executed by a representative who has the legal capacity to enter the organization into a formal contract with Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

The State of Delaware requires completion of the [Delaware Substitute Form W-9](#) to make payments to vendors. Successful completion of this form enables the creation of a State of Delaware vendor record. The Taxpayer ID (SSN or EIN) and Applicant (vendor) name are submitted to the Internal Revenue Service for "matching." If the Taxpayer ID and name do not match, the vendor record cannot be approved.

It is the applicant's responsibility to select the appropriate 1099 Withholding Type and Class. If incorporated, a business is not subject to 1099 reporting unless the business is providing legal or medical services.

Any questions about completing this form or specific comments about a form that you have submitted, please contact vendor services by phone at 302-672-5000.

**Y. SUBCONTRACTS**

Subcontracting is permitted under this RFP and contract. However, every subcontractor shall be identified in the Proposal using Attachment 7.

**Z. CONFIDENTIALITY**

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

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

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.

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.

**AA. PRICE NOT CONFIDENTIAL**

Vendors shall be advised that as a publically bid contract, no Vendor shall retain the right to declare their pricing confidential.

**BB. ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1 – No Proposal Reply Form
- Attachment 2 – Non-Collusion Statement
- Attachment 3 – Exceptions
- Attachment 4 – Company Profile and Capabilities
- Attachment 5 – Confidentiality and Proprietary Information

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

- Attachment 6 – Business References
- Attachment 7 – Subcontractor Information Form
- Attachment 8 – Office of Supplier Diversity Certification Application
- Attachment 9 – Proposal Reply Requirements
- Appendix A – Scope of Work details
- Appendix B – Pricing Form(s) and Instructions (if applicable)

#### **IV. PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCEDURES**

##### **A. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

###### **1. STATE'S RIGHT TO REJECT PROPOSALS**

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs reserves the right to reject any or all proposals in whole or in part, to make multiple awards, partial awards, award by types, item by item, or lump sum total, whichever is determined to be the most advantageous to the State of Delaware. Vendors submitting proposals may be afforded an opportunity for discussion. Vendors may be requested to provide a best and final offer during the negotiation process. Negotiations may be conducted with responsible Vendors who submit proposals found to be reasonably likely to be selected for award. The contents of any proposal shall not be disclosed so as to be available to competing vendors during the negotiation process.

###### **2. 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.

###### **3. FORMAL CONTRACT AND/OR PURCHASE ORDER**

No employee of the Contractor(s) is to begin any work prior to receipt of a State of Delaware Purchase Order signed by authorized representatives of the agency requesting service, properly processed through the State of Delaware Accounting Office. A purchase order, telephone call, email, fax, or State credit card shall serve as the authorization to proceed with work in accordance with the bid specifications and the special instructions, once it is received by the Contractor(s).

###### **4. DELIVERY OF PROPOSALS**

Proposals shall be delivered in sealed envelopes, and shall bear on the outside the name and address of the Vendor as well as the designation of the contract. Proposals forwarded by U.S. Mail shall be sent first class to the address stated in this RFP. Proposals forwarded by delivery service other than the U.S. Mail or hand delivered must be delivered to the applicable addresses also stated in this RFP. All bids must clearly display the bid number on the envelope.

**Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
Attn: Vicki Macklin  
21 The Green  
Dover, DE 19901  
(Contract Number)**

All proposals will be accepted at the time and place set in the RFP. Vendor bears the risk of delays in delivery. Proposals received after the time set for public opening will be returned unopened.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

**5. PUBLIC OPENING OF PROPOSALS**

The proposals shall be publicly opened at the time and place specified by the Agency. Vendors or their authorized representatives are invited to be present.

Only the vendor's name and address will be read aloud during the bid opening process.

**6. DISQUALIFICATION OF VENDORS**

Any one or more of the following causes may be considered as sufficient for the disqualification of a vendor and the rejection of its proposal or proposals:

- a. More than one proposal for the same contract from an individual, firm, or corporation under the same or different names.
- b. Evidence of collusion among vendors.
- c. Unsatisfactory performance record as evidenced by past experience with the State of Delaware or on a State of Delaware central contract.
- d. Any suspension or debarment of the parent company, subsidiary or individual involved with the vendor by federal, any state or any local governments within the last five (5) years.
- e. If the unit prices are obviously unbalanced either in excess or below reasonable cost analysis values.
- f. If there are any unauthorized additions, interlineations, conditional or alternate bids or irregularities of any kind which may tend to make the proposal incomplete, indefinite, or ambiguous as to its meaning.
- g. Non-attendance of mandatory pre-bid meetings shall be cause of disqualification.

**1. AUTHORITY OF AGENCY**

On all questions concerning the interpretation of specifications, the acceptability and quality of material furnished and/or work performed, the classification of material, the execution of the work, and the determination of payment due or to become due, the decision of the Agency shall be final and binding.

**2. OR EQUAL (PRODUCTS BY NAME)**

Specifications of products by name are intended to be descriptive of quality or workmanship, finish and performance. Desirable characteristics are not intended to be restrictive. Substitutions of products for those named will be considered provided the vendor certifies that the function, characteristics, performance and endurance qualities of the material offered is equal or superior to that specified.

**B. RESPONSIVENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY OF VENDOR**

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs shall award this contract to the most responsible and responsive vendor who best meets the terms and conditions of the proposal.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

1. Rejection of individual proposals. -- A proposal may be rejected for 1 or more of the following reasons:
  - a. The person responding to the solicitation is determined to be nonresponsive or non-responsible;
  - b. It is unacceptable;
  - c. The proposed price is unreasonable; or
  - d. It is otherwise not advantageous to the State.
2. Vendors whose proposals are rejected as non-responsive shall be notified in writing about the rejection.
3. Responsibility of vendors. -- It shall be determined whether a vendor is responsible before awarding a contract. Factors to be considered in determining if a vendor is responsible include:
  - a. The vendor's financial, physical, personnel or other resources, including subcontracts;
  - b. The vendor's record of performance and integrity;
  - c. Any record regarding any suspension or debarment;
  - d. Whether the vendor is qualified legally to contract with the State;
  - e. Whether the vendor supplied all necessary information concerning its responsibility; and
  - f. Any other specific criteria for a particular procurement which an agency may establish
4. If a vendor is determined to be non-responsive, the vendor shall be informed in writing.
5. The State reserves the right to waive minor irregularities, or request additional information before determining the responsiveness of the Vendor. All Vendors will be afforded the same or similar opportunities, as necessary, and will be treated with equal regard before such determinations are finalized.

### **C. PROPOSAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

The Proposal Evaluation Committee ("Committee") is comprised of representatives of the State of Delaware.

The Committee 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. §6926. Such selection will be based on the following criteria: The communicated ability of any one vendor to meet the needs of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs of the best value.

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs reserves the right to reject any or all bids in whole or in part, to make multiple awards, partial awards, award by types, item by item, or lump sum total, whichever may be most advantageous to the State of Delaware.

### **D. REQUIREMENTS OF THE VENDOR**

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

The purpose of this section is to assist the Proposal Evaluation Committee to determine the ability of the organization to provide the materials and services described in the application. The proposal response should contain at a minimum the following information:

- Brief history of the organizations, including accreditation status, if applicable.
- Applicant's experience, if any, providing similar services. At least three references are required (See Attachment 6)
- Brief history of the subcontractor of the organization, if applicable. At least three references of subcontractor, if applicable.
- Financial information (balance sheets and income statements) for the past three years.
- Experience of the Service Technicians.
- Describe the methodology/approach used for this project including details of required service and turnaround time.
- The bidder should take special care to address all items under criteria and scoring section below.

**E. CRITERIA AND SCORING**

	EVALUATION CRITERIA	
		<b>POINTS</b>
1.	The qualifications and experience of the persons to be assigned to the project. Certified Arborists on staff (provide certificates).	20
2.	The ability to perform the work in the time allotted for the project, as demonstrated by their proposed commitment of management, personnel and other resources. Project Management Experience.	20
3.	The approach to performing the tasks set forth in the Scope of Work as expressed in the Management Summary and Work Plan. Thoroughness and completeness of the proposal relative to the requirements.	20
4.	The background, experience, resources, reputation of the business	15
5.	Pricing	15
6.	References	10
	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>100</b>

Procurement Evaluation Committee members will assign up to the maximum number of points listed for each of the criteria listed above. For items having quantitative answers, points will be proportionate to each proposal's response. Items with qualitative answers will receive the average of points assigned by Proposal Evaluation Committee members.

**F. BEST AND FINAL OFFERS**

Once the proposals have been evaluated and negotiations have been held with the vendor(s) determined to be likely to receive an award, the Procurement Evaluation Committee issue a request for Best and Final Offers from the vendor(s).

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

**G. REFERENCES**

The Committee 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.

**H. ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

Selected vendors may be invited to make oral presentations to the Committee. 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.

**V. MANDATORY PREBID MEETING**

A mandatory pre-bid meeting has not been established for this Request for Proposal.

**VI. DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS**

The attached Definitions and General Provisions apply to all contracts and are part of each Request for Proposal. The requirement to furnish a bid bond and performance bond is applicable unless waived. Should the General Provisions conflict with the Special Provisions, the Special Provisions shall prevail. Vendors or their authorized representatives are required to fully acquaint themselves as to State procurement laws and regulations prior to submitting bid.

**A. DEFINITIONS:** Whenever the following terms are used, their intent and meaning shall be interpreted as follows:

**STATE:** The State of Delaware

**AGENCY:** State Agency as noted on cover sheet.

**BID INVITATION:** The "invitation to bid" or "Request for Proposal" is a packet of material sent to vendors and consists of General Provisions, Special Provisions, specifications, and enclosures.

**BOND:** The approved form of security furnished by the Vendors and its surety as a guaranty of good faith on the part of the Vendor to execute the work in accordance with the terms of the contract.

**CONTRACT:** The written agreement covering the furnishing and delivery of material or work to be performed.

**DESIGNATED OFFICIAL:** The agent authorized to act for an Agency.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS:** General Provisions are instructions pertaining to contracts in general. They contain, in summary, requirements of laws of the State, policies of the Agency, and instructions to vendors.



STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

**LOCAL TIME:** Eastern Standard Time/Eastern Daylight Time

**OPPORTUNITY BUY:** A special offer from a supplier that is usually associated with a limited time to respond.

**PROPOSAL:** The offer of the Vendor submitted on the approved form and setting forth the Vendor's prices for performing the work or supplying the material or equipment described in the specifications.

**RFP:** Request for Proposal.

**SPECIAL PROVISIONS:** Special Provisions are specific conditions or requirements peculiar to the contract under consideration and are supplemental to the General Provisions. Should the Special Provisions conflict with the General Provisions, the Special Provisions shall prevail.

**SURETY:** The corporate body which is bound with and for the contract, or which is liable, and which engages to be responsible for the Vendor's payments of all debts pertaining to and for its acceptable performance of the work for which he has contracted

**VENDOR:** Any individual, firm, or corporation formally submitting a proposal for the material or work contemplated, acting directly or through a duly authorized representative.

**VENDOR'S DEPOSIT:** The security designated in the proposal to be furnished by the Vendor as a guaranty of good faith to enter into a contract with the Agency if the work to be performed or the material or equipment to be furnished is awarded to it.

## **B. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **1. INTERPRETATION OF ESTIMATES/QUANTITIES**

- a. Unless stated otherwise, the quantities given in the RFP are to be considered to be approximate only and are given as a basis for the comparison of bids. The Agency may increase or decrease the amount of any item as may be deemed necessary or expedient, during the period of the contract. Bidders shall recognize there are no guaranteed minimum contract quantities or values associated with this solicitation.
- b. An increase or decrease in the quantity for any item is not sufficient ground for an increase or decrease in the unit price.
  - c. Vendor usage reports for previous awards, if applicable, may be found by accessing the applicable contract award page at: <http://contracts.delaware.gov/>. Past usage shall not be considered a guaranteed future volume.

### **2. SILENCE OF SPECIFICATIONS**

The apparent silence of the specifications as to any detail, or the apparent omission from it of detailed description concerning any point, shall be regarded as meaning that only the best commercial practice is to prevail and only material and workmanship of the first quality are to be used. Proof of specifications compliance will be the responsibility of the vendor.

### **3. EXAMINATION OF SPECIFICATIONS AND PROVISIONS**

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

The Vendor shall examine carefully the proposal and the contract forms for the material contemplated. The Vendor shall investigate and satisfy itself as to the conditions to be encountered, quality and quantities of the material to be furnished, and the requirements of any Special Provisions in the RFP and the contract. The submission of a proposal shall be conclusive evidence that the Vendor has made examination of the aforementioned conditions.

**4. PRICES QUOTED**

The prices quoted are those for which the material will be furnished F.O.B. Ordering Agency and include all charges that may be imposed during the period of the contract. **All prices quoted must be in U.S. Dollars.**

All vendors that maintain a core list of products under this contract shall maintain the appropriate negotiated prices on their core list. Vendors shall routinely offer to add to the core list materiel that has been identified as necessary. The Vendors are expected to routinely update any changes to the core list with the appropriate discounts listed.

Any adjustments to a core list must receive prior written approval from the State before a core list can be changed by the Vendor. Changes include but are not limited to the migration of items on and off the core list as well as any price adjustments from the original agreed upon pricing.

**5. PUBLIC INSPECTION OF PROPOSALS**

All documents submitted as part of the vendor's proposal will be deemed confidential during the evaluation process. Vendor proposals will not be available for review by anyone other than the State of Delaware/Proposal Evaluation Committee or its designated agents. There shall be no disclosure of any vendor's information to a competing vendor prior to award of the contract.

The State of Delaware is a public agency as defined by state law, and as such, it is subject to the Delaware Freedom of Information Act, 29 Del. C. Ch. 100. Under the law, all the State of Delaware's records are public records (unless otherwise declared by law to be confidential) and are subject to inspection and copying by any person. Vendor(s) are advised that once a proposal is received by the State of Delaware and a decision on contract award is made, its contents will become public record and nothing contained in the proposal will be deemed to be confidential except proprietary information.

Vendor(s) shall not include any information in their proposal that is proprietary in nature or that they would not want to be released to the public. Proposals must contain sufficient information to be evaluated and a contract written without reference to any proprietary information. If a vendor feels that they cannot submit their proposal without including proprietary information, they must adhere to the following procedure or their proposal may be deemed unresponsive and will not be recommended for selection. Vendor(s) must submit such information in a separate, sealed envelope labeled "Proprietary Information" with the 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(d), and briefly stating the reasons that each document meets the said definitions.

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.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

**6. LAWS TO BE OBSERVED**

The vendor is presumed to know and shall strictly comply with all Federal, State, or County laws, and City or Town ordinances and regulations in any manner affecting the conduct of the work. The Vendor shall indemnify and save harmless the State of Delaware, the Agency, and all Officers, Agency and Servants thereof against any claim or liability arising from or based upon the violation of any such laws, ordinances, regulations, orders, or decrees whether by itself, by its employees, or by its subcontractor (s).

**7. APPLICABLE LAW AND JURISDICTION**

This bid, any resulting contract, and any and all litigation or other disputes arising therefrom, in connection with, or related hereto shall be governed by the applicable laws, regulations and rules of evidence of the State of Delaware. Bidder submits to personal jurisdiction in the State of Delaware. Any and all litigation or other disputes arising out of, in connection with, or relating to this bid, and any resulting contract, shall be brought exclusively in a court in the State of Delaware or the United States District Court of the District of Delaware as applicable.

**8. 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.

**9. PERMITS AND LICENSES**

All necessary permits, licenses, insurance policies, etc. required by local, State or Federal laws, shall be provided by the Vendor at its own expense.

**10. PATENTED DEVICES, MATERIAL AND PROCESSES**

- a. The Vendor shall provide for the use of any patented design, device, material, or process to be used or furnished under this contract by suitable legal agreement with the patentee or owner, and shall file a copy of this agreement with the Agency.
- b. The Vendor and the surety shall hold and save harmless the State of Delaware, the Agency, the Director, their Officers or Agents from any and all claims because of the use of such patented design, device, material, or process in connection with the work agreed to be performed under this contract.

**11. EMERGENCY TERMINATION OF CONTRACT**

- a. Due to restrictions which may be established by the United States Government on material, or work, a contract may be terminated by the cancellation of all or portions of the contract.
- b. In the event the Vendor is unable to obtain the material required to complete the items of work included in the contract because of restrictions established by the United States Government and if, in the opinion of the Agency, it is impractical to substitute other available material, or the work cannot

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

be completed within a reasonable time, the incomplete portions of the work may be cancelled, or the contract may be terminated.

**12. TAX EXEMPTION**

- a. Material covered by this proposal is exempt from all FEDERAL and STATE TAXES. Such taxes shall not be included in prices quoted.
- b. Any material which is to be incorporated in the work or any equipment required for the work contemplated in the proposal may be consigned to the Agency. If the shipping papers show clearly that any such material is so consigned, the shipment will be exempt from the tax on the transportation of property under provisions of Section 3475 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended by Public Law 180 (78th Congress). All transportation charges shall be paid by the Vendor. Each Vendor shall take its exemption into account in calculating its bid for its work.

**13. INVOICING**

After the awards are made, the agencies participating in the bid may forward their purchase orders ("P.O.") to the successful Vendor(s) in accordance with State Purchasing Procedures. The State will generate a payment voucher upon receipt of an acceptable invoice from the vendor.

**14. EQUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ON PUBLIC WORKS**

During the performance of any contract for public works financed in whole or in part by appropriation of the State of Delaware, the contractor agrees as follows:

- a. The contractor, as set forth in Title 19 Delaware Code Chapter 7 section 711, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment 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 contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated equally during employment without regard to their race, marital status, genetic information, color, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: advertising, lay-off or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training including apprenticeships. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, notices to be provided by the contracting agency setting forth the provisions of this non-discrimination clause.
- b. During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:
  - 1. The contractor, as set forth in Title 19 Delaware Code Chapter 7 section 711, will not discriminate against any individual 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 contractor will take positive steps to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, marital status, genetic information, color, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places available

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

to employees and applicants for employment notices to be provided by the contracting agency setting forth this nondiscrimination clause.

2. The contractor will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, marital status, genetic information, color, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.”
- c. The term "contractor for public works" means construction, reconstruction, demolition, alteration, and/or repair work, maintenance work, and paid for in whole or in part out of the funds of a public body except work performed under a vocational rehabilitation program. The manufacture or furnishing of materials, articles, supplies or equipment is not a public work within the meaning of this subsection unless conducted in connection with and at the site of the public work.

**15. PRICES**

Prices and/or rates shall remain firm for the initial one year term of the contract, unless further negotiations are deemed necessary by the State.

The pricing policy that you choose to submit must address the following concerns:

- a. The structure must be clear, accountable and auditable.
- b. It must cover the full spectrum of services required.
- c. Costs and compensation must be consistent with the rates established or negotiated as a result of this RFP or P.O. issued based on this contract.

**16. 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.

**17. PRICE ADJUSTMENT**

The Vendor is not prohibited from offering a price reduction on its services or materiel offered under the contract. The State is not prohibited from requesting a price reduction on those services or materiel during the initial term or any subsequent options that the State may agree to exercise.

If agreement is reached to extend this contract beyond the initial one (1) year period from March 1, 2019 – February 29, 2020, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs shall have the option of offering a determined price adjustment that shall not exceed the current Philadelphia All Urban Consumers Price Index (CPI-U), U.S. City Average. If the CPI-U is used, any increase/decrease shall reflect the change during the previous published twelve (12) month period at the time of renegotiation.

**18. SHIPPING TERMS**

FOB Destination, freight prepaid.

**19. ELECTRONIC CATALOG**

At the discretion of Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the successful vendor(s) may be required to submit their items list in an electronic format designated by the State.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

By example, but not limited to, the following items may be required:

- Electronic catalogs,
- Electronic catalogs converted to a CSV format with contract specific pricing,
- Items designated by commodity/classification code: United Nations Standard Products and Services Code (UNSPSC), and/or
- A unique item ID for all items in your system and/or our award.

**20. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS**

The parties to any contract from this solicitation shall be independent contractors to one another, and nothing herein shall be deemed to cause the 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.

**21. TEMPORARY PERSONNEL ARE NOT STATE EMPLOYEES UNLESS AND UNTIL THEY ARE DIRECTLY 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.

**22. 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

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

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 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.

**23. FUNDING OUT or NON-APPROPRIATION**

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 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.

**24. MANDATORY INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

As a part of the contract requirements, the contractor must obtain at its own cost and expense and keep in force and effect during the term of this contract, including all extensions, the minimum coverage limits specified below with a carrier satisfactory to the State. All contractors must carry the following coverage depending on the scope of work being delivered.

a. Commercial General Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence/\$3,000,000 aggregate,

and

b. Medical/Professional Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence/\$3,000,000 aggregate,

**or**

c. Miscellaneous Errors and Omissions - \$1,000,000 per occurrence/\$3,000,000 aggregate,

**or**

d. Product Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence/\$3,000,000 aggregate,

and

e. Automotive Liability Insurance covering all automotive units used in the work with limits of not less than \$100,000 each person and \$300,000 each accident as to bodily injury and \$25,000 as to property damage to other,

and

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

f. The vendor 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 vendor is an independent contractor and is not an employee of the State of Delaware.

All contractors must carry (a), (e), and (f), and at least one of (b), (c), or (d), depending on the scope of work being delivered.

Before any work is done with the State, a Certificate of Insurance referencing the name and contract number stated herein, shall be filed with the State. The certificate holder is as follows:

**State of Delaware  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
Contract #  
21 The Green  
Dover, DE 19901**

**Note: The State of Delaware shall not be named as an additional insured.**

**Should any of the above described policies be cancelled before the expiration date thereof, notice will be delivered in accordance with the policy provisions.**

## **25. STATE OF DELAWARE BUSINESS LICENSE**

Prior to receiving an award, the successful Vendor shall either furnish the Agency 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: 302-577-8778. <http://revenue.delaware.gov/services/BusServices.shtml>

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

## **26. INDEMNIFICATION**

### **a. 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.

### **b. 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



STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

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:

1. Procure the right for the State of Delaware to continue using the Product(s);
2. Replace the product with a non-infringing equivalent that satisfies all the requirements of the contract; or
3. 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.

## **27. NON-PERFORMANCE**

In the event the Vendor does not fulfill its obligations under the terms and conditions of this contract, in addition to proceeding with termination of the contract, the ordering agency may terminate any individual orders in accordance with General Provisions, Item titled as "TERMINATION OF INDIVIDUAL PURCHASE ORDERS" below and purchase equivalent product on the open market. Regarding any such open market purchase, payment for any difference in cost or expense in excess of the contract prices for reasonably equivalent products or services herein shall be the responsibility of the Vendor and shall be submitted to the State no later than 30 days following the delivery of the State's invoice detailing the open market purchase. Under no circumstances shall monies be due the Vendor in the event open market products can be obtained below contract cost. Any monies charged to the Vendor may be deducted from an open invoice.

## **28. FORCE MAJEURE**

Neither the vendor nor the ordering agency shall be held liable for non-performance under the terms and conditions of this contract due, but not limited to, government restriction, strike, flood, fire, or unforeseen catastrophe beyond either party's control. Each party shall notify the other in writing of any situation that may prevent performance under the terms and conditions of this contract.

## **29. VENDOR NON-ENTITLEMENT**

State of Delaware Vendors for Materiel and for Services shall not have legal entitlement to utilize any Central Contract held by the State of Delaware. The Vendors may not seek business from another Vendors' Central Contract for the purpose of preparing a bid or proposal to the State of Delaware. Additionally, they shall not utilize other Central Contracts to fulfill the requirements of their respective contract unless they are considered a "Covered Agency" as defined by Title 29 Chapter 69 of the State Procurement Code or otherwise permitted by law.

This is not a prohibition from any Vendor choosing to work with another Vendor who holds a State Central Contract for private business.

## **30. OPPORTUNITY BUYS**

The Director for the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs can waive use of a contract pursuant to 29 Del. C. §6911(d). A process has been developed to permit any vendor the opportunity to submit an

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Opportunity Buy offer to the State for goods and/or services for consideration despite the existence of a contract. See [Opportunity Buy Flowchart](#). The Director will afford any vendor on an existing contract an opportunity to match or to beat the Opportunity Buy offer made by a non-contracted vendor prior to a waiver being granted.

### **31. I FOUND IT CHEAPER**

Director for the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs can waive use of a contract pursuant to 29 Del. C. §6911(d). A process has been developed to permit any State employee or Vendor to identify a lower price for material and or services for consideration despite the existence of a contract. See [I Found It Cheaper Flowchart](#). The Director will afford any Vendor on an existing contract an opportunity to match or to beat the I Found It Cheaper suggestion and if not matched or beaten, approve the purchase via a waiver.

### **32. ORDERING PROCEDURE**

Successful vendors are required to have either a local telephone number within the (302) area code, a toll free (800) number, or agree to accept collect calls. Depending on the nature and scope of the event, each State agency or other governmental entity shall be responsible for contacting the awarded vendor directly for all required resources. All consumables delivered by the Vendor and received by a State agency or other governmental entity, become the property of that State agency or entity. Orders may be accomplished by written purchase order, telephone, email, fax or computer on-line systems.

### **33. PURCHASE ORDERS**

Agencies that are part of the First State Financial (FSF) system are required to identify the contract number STA19100-TREESRVC on all Purchase Orders (P.O.) and shall complete the same when entering P.O. information in the state's financial reporting system.

### **34. BILLING**

The Vendor is required to "Bill as Shipped" to the respective ordering agency(s). Ordering agencies shall provide contract number, ship to and bill to address, contact name and phone number. The Vendor shall not charge a late fee that exceeds more than one percent (1%) per month, not to exceed twelve percent (12%) per annum.

Agencies will make every effort to achieve available discount opportunities under this contract. Vendors shall be required to report semi-annually opportunities to enhance the discounts achieved.

### **35. METHOD OF PAYMENT**

- a. For each P.O. issued as part of this contract, the State will pay Vendor monthly, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Vendor's billing, the amount which is legitimately earned by the Vendor, and supported by payroll data and an itemized accounting of reasonable reimbursable direct non-salary costs. A current progress report of the work shall accompany each billing.

Final settlement for total payment to the Vendor will be made within thirty (30) days from the date of final written State acceptance of the work and services as agreed to in the P.O.

- b. No premium time for overtime will be paid without prior written State authorization. Indirect overhead cost shall not be applied to the premium portion of the overtime.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

- c. The agencies or school districts using this award will authorize and process for payment each invoice within thirty (30) days after the date of receipt of a correct invoice. The State of Delaware intends to maximize the use of the P-Card for payment for goods and services provided under contract. Vendors shall not charge additional fees for acceptance of this payment method and shall incorporate any costs into their proposals. Additionally there shall be no minimum or maximum limits on any P-Card transaction under the contract. While it is the State's intention to utilize the P-card payment method the State reserves, at its discretion, the right to pay by ACH/ACI or check. Should a Vendor wish to provide a financial incentive to not process payment by P-Card in their proposal, they are to prepare their proposals to clearly outline any incentives for alternative payment methods the Vendor is willing to accept.

**36. PRODUCT SUBSTITUTION**

All items or services delivered during the life of the contract shall be of the same type and manufacture as specified or accepted as part of the proposal unless specific approval is given by the Agency to do otherwise. Awarded vendors are highly encouraged to offer any like substitute product (s), either generic or brand name, at any time during the subsequent contract term, especially if an opportunity for cost savings to the state exists. In all cases, the state may require the submission of written specifications and/or product samples for evaluation prior to any approvals being granted.

If a substitution is granted by the state, the Vendor must update its core list and maintain said list in a timely manner.

**37. SCHEDULE FOR PERFORMANCE OF WORK**

All work described in these specifications shall be completed with reasonable promptness. As used in this Section, the State of Delaware shall be the sole judge of the term "reasonable". If the Vendor does not begin the work in a reasonable amount of time, they will be notified that if they fail to initiate the work promptly, the contract may be terminated and the State will forthwith proceed to collect for nonperformance of work.

**38. 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 7, and are subject the approval and acceptance of Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

**39. VENDOR- OWNED RENTAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES REMOVAL**

The awarded Vendor shall remove all rental equipment and supplies from the event location (s) no later than an agreed to date once all contract obligations by the Vendor have been met.

**40. ENVIRONMENTAL PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Energy Star - If applicable, the Vendor must provide products that earn the ENERGY STAR rating and meet the ENERGY STAR specifications for energy efficiency in order to keep overall event costs to a minimum. The Vendor is encouraged to visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for complete product specifications and updated lists of qualifying products.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Green Products – third party certification of green products accepted from GSS w/approved green certification shall be offered wherever available in addition to or as a substitute for non-green products.

Vendors shall report all green items procured during the monthly reporting period using the Usage Report that will be provided to the awarded Vendor(s).

Environmental Procurement Policies of the State shall determine acceptable consideration and credit for environmentally preferred products and services in the performance of this award. The State Environmental Procurement Policies may be found:

[Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy](#)

#### **41. PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES**

- a. The Vendor represents that it has, or will secure at its own expense, all personnel required to perform the services required under this contract.
- b. 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.
- c. None of the equipment and/or services covered by this contract shall be subcontracted without the prior written approval of the State. Only those subcontractors identified in Attachment 7 are considered approved upon award. Changes to those subcontractor(s) listed in Attachment 7 must be approved in writing by the State.

#### **42. FAIR BACKGROUND CHECK PRACTICES**

Pursuant to 29 Del. C. [§6909B](#), 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.

#### **43. 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://sexoffender.dsp.delaware.gov/>

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.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

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.

#### **44. DRUG TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR LARGE PUBLIC WORKS**

Pursuant to 29 Del.C. [§6908\(a\)\(6\)](#), effective as of January 1, 2016, OMB has established regulations that require Contractors and Subcontractors to implement a program of mandatory drug testing for Employees who work on Large Public Works Contracts funded all or in part with public funds. The regulations establish the mechanism, standards and requirements of a Mandatory Drug Testing Program that will be incorporated by reference into all Large Public Works Contracts awarded pursuant to 29 Del.C. [§6962](#).

Final publication of the identified regulations can be found at the following:

[4104 Regulations for the Drug Testing of Contractor and Subcontractor Employees Working on Large Public Works Projects](#)

#### **45. MINIMUM WAGE RATES**

Work performed under this solicitation may fall under the [State of Delaware Minimum Wage Rates](#) or the Delaware Prevailing Wage rates. Prior to issuing a purchase order, the ordering agencies must obtain from the Department of Labor a determination if prevailing wage applies to the project and, if appropriate, what the applicable prevailing wage rates would be for the work to be performed. No work shall proceed without a determination by the Department of Labor. Request for prevailing wage certification can be found at: <http://dia.delawareworks.com/labor-law/prevailing-wage.php> .

#### **46. PREVAILING WAGE**

The prevailing wage law, 29 Del.C. [§6960](#), is enforced by the Department of Labor and states that the specifications for every contract or aggregate of contracts relating to a public works project in excess of \$500,000 for new construction (including painting and decorating) or \$45,000 for alteration, repair, renovation, rehabilitation, demolition or reconstruction (including painting and decorating of building or works) to which this State or any subdivision thereof is a party and for which the State appropriated any part of the funds and which requires or involves the employment of mechanics and/or laborers shall contain a provision stating the minimum wages to be paid various classes of laborers and mechanics which shall be based upon the wages that will be determined by the Delaware Department of Labor, Division of Industrial Affairs, to be prevailing in the county in which the work is to be performed.

#### **47. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

At the option of, and in the manner prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the parties shall attempt in good faith to resolve any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

promptly by negotiation between executives who have authority to settle the controversy and who are at a higher level of management than the persons with direct responsibility for administration of this Agreement. All offers, promises, conduct and statements, whether oral or written, made in the course of the negotiation by any of the parties, their agents, employees, experts and attorneys are confidential, privileged and inadmissible for any purpose, including impeachment, in arbitration or other proceeding involving the parties, provided evidence that is otherwise admissible or discoverable shall not be rendered inadmissible.

If the matter is not resolved by negotiation, as outlined above, or, alternatively, OMB elects to proceed directly to mediation, then the matter will proceed to mediation as set forth below. Any disputes, claims or controversies arising out of or relating to this Agreement shall be submitted to mediation by a mediator selected by OMB, and if the matter is not resolved through mediation, then it shall be submitted, in the sole discretion of OMB, to the Office of Management and Budget, Government Support Services Director, for final and binding arbitration. OMB reserves the right to proceed directly to arbitration or litigation without negotiation or mediation. Any such proceedings held pursuant to this provision shall be governed by Delaware law and venue shall be in Delaware. The parties shall maintain the confidential nature of the arbitration proceeding and the Award, including the Hearing, except as may be necessary to prepare for or conduct the arbitration hearing on the merits. Each party shall bear its own costs of mediation, arbitration or litigation, including attorneys' fees.

#### 48. TERMINATION OF INDIVIDUAL ORDERS OR PURCHASE ORDERS

The individual orders may be terminated as follows:

- a. **Termination for Cause:** If, for any reasons, or through any cause, the Vendor fails to fulfill in timely and proper manner his obligations, or if the Vendor violates any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this contract, the Agency shall have the right to terminate the P.O. by giving written notice to the Vendor of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof, at least five (5) 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 in the performance of the P.O. shall, at the option of the Agency, 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 Agency.
- b. **Termination for Convenience:** The Agency may terminate the P.O. at any time by giving written notice of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof, at least sixty (60) 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 department, become its property and the Vendor shall be entitled to receive compensation for any satisfactory work completed on such documents and other materials which are usable to the Agency.
- c. **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 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.

#### 49. TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

The contract awarded as a result of this RFP may be terminated as follows by Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

- a. 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 thirty (30) 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 not 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.

- b. 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 sixty (60) 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.
- c. 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 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.

#### 50. CHANGES

Both parties may, from time to time, require changes in the services to be provided by the Vendor under the Scope of Work. Such changes, including any increase or decrease in the amount of the Vendor's compensation, which are mutually agreed upon by and between the Agency and the Vendor shall be incorporated in written amendments to the Purchase Order or contract.

#### 51. INTEREST OF VENDOR

The vendor covenants that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree in providing products or performing services required under



STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

this contract. The vendor further covenants, that in the performance of this contract, no person having any such interest shall be employed.

**52. PUBLICATION, REPRODUCTION AND USE OF MATERIAL**

No material produced in whole or part under this contract shall be subject to copyright in the United States or in any other country. The State shall have unrestricted authority to publish, disclose, distribute and otherwise use, in whole or in part, any reports, data, or other materials prepared under this contract; provided, however, that the State agrees not to use any design or engineering plans prepared by the vendor for anything other than their intended purpose under this Contract. The Vendor shall have the right to publish any and all scientific findings. Appropriate acknowledgment and credit for the State's support shall be given in the publication.

**53. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

The rights and obligations of each party to this agreement shall not be effective, and no party shall be bound by the terms of this agreement, unless and until a valid executed purchase order has been approved by the Secretary of Finance, and all procedures of the Department of Finance have been complied with. A separate purchase order shall be issued for every project or order.

**54. ASSIGNMENT OF ANTITRUST CLAIMS**

As consideration for the award and execution of this contract by the State, the Vendor hereby grants, conveys, sells, assigns, and transfers to the State of Delaware all of its right, title and interest in and to all known or unknown causes of action it presently has or may now or hereafter acquire under the antitrust laws of the United States and the State of Delaware, regarding the specific goods or services purchased or acquired for the State pursuant to this contract. Upon either the State's or the Vendor notice of the filing of or reasonable likelihood of filing of an action under the antitrust laws of the United States or the State of Delaware, the State and Vendor shall meet and confer about coordination of representation in such action.

**55. TESTING AND INSPECTION**

The State of Delaware reserves the right to conduct any test or inspection it may deem necessary to insure equipment, materials and services conform to contract requirements.

**56. COVENANT AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES**

The Vendor warrants that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, excepting bona fide employees. For breach or violation of this warranty, the State shall have the right to annul this contract without liability or in its discretion to deduct from the contract price or consideration, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fees.

**57. GRATUITIES**

- a. If it is found, after notice and hearing, by the State that gratuities (in the form of entertainment, gifts, or otherwise) were offered or given by the Vendor or any agent of the State with a view toward securing a contract, or securing favorable treatment with respect to the awarding, amending, or the making of any determinations with respect to the performance of this contract, the State may, by



STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

written notice to the Vendor, terminate the right of the Vendor to proceed under this contract and/or may pursue such other rights and remedies provided by law or under this agreement; provided that the existence of the facts upon which the State makes such findings shall be in issue and may be reviewed in proceedings pursuant to the Remedies clause of this contract; and

- b. In the event this contract is terminated pursuant to subparagraph "a", the State shall be entitled (i) to pursue the same remedies against the Vendor, and (ii) to exemplary damages, as a penalty in addition to any other damages to which it may be entitled by law, in an amount which shall be not less than three, nor more than ten, times the costs incurred by the Vendor in providing any such gratuities to any such officer or employee. The amount of such exemplary damages shall be in the sole discretion of the State.

**58. 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.

**59. 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.

**60. REMEDIES**

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

**61. SUBCONTRACTS**

Subcontracting is permitted under this RFP and contract. However, every subcontractor shall be identified in the Proposal (Attachment 7) and agreed to in writing by the State or as are specifically authorized in writing by the Agency during the performance of the contract. Any substitutions in or additions to such subcontractors, associates, or consultants will be subject to the prior written approval of the State.

The vendor(s) shall be responsible for compliance by the subcontractor with all terms, conditions and requirements of the RFP and with all local, State and Federal Laws. The vendor shall be liable for any

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

noncompliance by any subcontractor. Further, nothing contained herein or in any subcontractor agreement shall be construed as creating any contractual relationship between the subcontractor and the State.

## 62. AGENCY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Agency shall:

- a. Examine and review in detail all letters, reports, drawings and other documents presented by the Vendor to the Agency and render to the Vendor in writing, findings and decisions pertaining thereto within a reasonable time so as not to delay the services of Vendor.
- b. Give prompt written notice to the Contractor whenever the Agency observes or otherwise becomes aware of any development that affects the scope or timing of the Contractor's services.
- c. When an ordering agency first experiences a relatively minor problem or difficulty with a vendor, the agency will contact the vendor directly and attempt to informally resolve the problem. This includes failure to perform by the date specified and any unacceptable difference(s) between the purchase order and the merchandise received. Ordering agencies should stress to vendors that they should expedite correction of the differences because failure to reply may result in an unfavorable rating in the execution of the awarded contract.
- d. The state has several remedies available to resolve non-performance issues with the contractor. The Agency should refer to the Contract Terms and Conditions to view these remedies. When a default occurs, the Agency should first review the contract to confirm that the issue is a part of the contract. If the issue is not covered by the contract, the state cannot expect the contractor to perform outside the agreement. If the issue is a part of the contract, the Agency or GSS - Contracting must then contact the contractor, discuss the reasons surrounding the default and establish a date when the contractor will resolve the non-performance issue.
- e. If there is a performance deficiency, a Corrective Action Report (CAR) may be used. Complete this form to report concerns with vendors or commodities. Be sure to furnish as much detail as possible.

[Corrective Action Report](#)

## 63. CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

The Definitions and General Provisions and any Special Instructions, Specifications, Request for Proposal, Proposal, Purchase Order, and Contract shall be a part of and constitute the entire Agreement entered into by the State of Delaware and any 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
- Request for Proposal
- Specifications or Scope of Work
- Definitions & General Provisions
- Proposal
- Purchase Order
- Special Instruction

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

**64. ASSIGNMENT**

This contract shall not be assigned except by express prior written consent from the Agency.

**65. NOTICE**

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

**Department of State  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs  
21 The Green  
Dover, DE 19901**

**66. VENDOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE POINT OF CONTACT**

The awarded vendor(s) shall provide the name(s), telephone, or cell phone number(s) of those individuals who can be contacted twenty four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week where there is a critical need for commodities or services when the Governor of the State of Delaware declares a state of emergency under the Delaware Emergency Operations Plan or in the event of a local emergency or disaster where a state governmental entity requires the services of the vendor. Failure to provide this information could render the proposal as non-responsive.

In the event of a serious emergency, pandemic or disaster outside the control of the State, the State may negotiate, as may be authorized by law, emergency performance from the Contractor to address the immediate needs of the State, even if not contemplated under the original Contract or procurement. Payments are subject to appropriation and other payment terms.

**67. 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.

**C. AWARD AND EXECUTION OF CONTRACT**

**1. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS**

The right is reserved to waive technicalities, to reject any or all bids, or any portion thereof, to seek new proposals, to proceed to do the work otherwise, or to abandon the work, if in the judgment of the Agency or its agent, the best interest of the State will be promoted thereby.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

**2. MATERIAL GUARANTY**

Before any contract is awarded, the successful Vendor may be required to furnish a complete statement of the origin, composition and manufacture of any or all of the material to be used in the contract together with such samples as may be requested for the purpose of testing.

**3. AWARD OF CONTRACT**

Within ninety (90) days from the date of opening proposals, the contract will be awarded or the proposals rejected.

**4. EXECUTION OF CONTRACT**

The Vendor (s) to whom the award is made shall execute a formal contract within twenty (20) days after date of official notice of the award of the contract.

**5. WARRANTY**

The successful Vendor(s) shall be required to extend any policy guarantee usually offered to the general public, FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, or MUNICIPAL governments, on material in this contract against defective material, workmanship, and performance.

**6. THE CONTRACT(S)**

The contract(s) with the successful Vendor(s) will be executed with Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs acting for all participating governmental entities.

**7. INFORMATION REQUIREMENT**

The successful vendor's shall be required to advise and provide Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs of the gross costs associated with this contract.

## **VII. PROPOSAL REPLY SECTION**

### **STA19100-TREESRVC**

#### **Tree Trimming, Pruning and Removal Services**

Please fill out the attached forms fully and completely and return with your proposal in a sealed envelope clearly displaying the contract number to the State of Delaware, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs by November 27, 2018 at 1:00 pm (Local Time) at which time bids will be opened.

#### **NO MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING**

**Proposals must be mailed to:**

**DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
Attn: Vicki Macklin  
21 The Green  
Dover, DE 19901**

#### **PUBLIC PROPOSAL OPENINGS**

The public proposal opening insures the citizens of Delaware that contracts are being proposed fairly on a competitive basis and comply with Delaware procurement laws. The agency conducting the opening is required by law to publicly open the proposals at the time and place specified and the contract shall be awarded within ninety (90) days thereafter. The main purpose of the proposal opening is to reveal the name(s) of the Vendor(s), not to serve as a forum for determining the apparent low Vendors. The disclosure of additional information, including prices, shall be at the discretion of the contracting agency until such time that the responsiveness of each proposal has been determined.

After receipt of a fully executed contract(s), the Delaware public and all Vendors are invited to make an appointment with the agency in order to review pricing and other non-confidential information.

**NOTE: ONLY THE VENDOR'S NAME AND ADDRESS WILL BE READ AT THE OPENING**

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

The following attachments are required to be included in the final submission package.

**NO PROPOSAL REPLY FORM**

Contract No.: **STA19100-TREESRVC** Contract Title: **Tree Trimming, Pruning and Removal Services**

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 manufacturing company.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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.**

**PLEASE FORWARD NO PROPOSAL REPLY FORM TO THE CONTRACT OFFICER IDENTIFIED.**

**CONTRACT NO.: STA19100-TREESRVC TITLE: Tree Trimming, Pruning and Removal Services  
DEADLINE TO RESPOND: November 27, 2018 at 1:00 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, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs.

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 Historical and Cultural Affairs.

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

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

NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE \_\_\_\_\_

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
	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 BE SIGNED, NOTARIZED AND RETURNED FOR YOUR BID TO BE CONSIDERED**

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

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

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

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Attachment 3

Contract No.: **STA19100-TREESRVC**  
Contract Title: **Tree Trimming, Pruning and Removal Services**

**EXCEPTIONS FORM**

Proposals must include all exceptions to the specifications, terms or conditions contained in this RFP. If the vendor is submitting the proposal without exceptions, please state so below.

By checking this box, the Vendor acknowledges that they take no exceptions to the specifications, terms or conditions found in this RFP.

Paragraph # and page #	Exceptions to Specifications, terms or conditions	Proposed Alternative

**Note: Vendor may use additional pages as necessary, but the format shall be the same as provided above.**



Contract No.: **STA19100-TREESRVC**  
Contract Title: **Tree Trimming, Pruning and Removal Services**

**COMPANY PROFILE & CAPABILITIES FORM**

Suppliers are required to provide a reply to each question listed below. Your replies will aid the evaluation committee as part of the overall qualitative evaluation criteria of this Request for Proposal. Your responses should contain sufficient information about your company so evaluators have a clear understanding of your company's background and capabilities. Failure to respond to any of these questions may result in your proposal to be rejected as non-responsive.

1.	How many employees do you have working for you? If a project requires more assistance, are you able to provide more workers? What qualifications does your staff have and what measures do you take to keep those qualifications up to date? Do you have a certified arborist on staff, if so please provide a copy of certification.

2.	Identify subcontractors, if any. (Subcontractor form must be submitted for each subcontractor.)

3.	How accurate are your time estimates for projects? What is your record for meeting deadlines? What type of equipment do you have to enable you to get the job done on time?

4.	Describe three major projects you have worked on within the past three years. What challenges did you face and how did you overcome them?

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

**Attachment 4**

Contract No.: **STA19100-TREESRVC**  
Contract Title: **Tree Trimming, Pruning and Removal Services**

**COMPANY PROFILE & CAPABILITIES FORM (Continued)**

Suppliers are required to provide a reply to each question listed below. Your replies will aid the evaluation committee as part of the overall qualitative evaluation criteria of this Request for Proposal. Your responses should contain sufficient information about your company so evaluators have a clear understanding of your company's background and capabilities. Failure to respond to any of these questions may result in your proposal to be rejected as non-responsive.

5.	Can you service the entire Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs? If not, please identify the locations you can cover.



STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Attachment 6

Contract No.: **STA19100-TREESRVC**  
Contract Title: **Tree Trimming, Pruning and Removal Services**

**BUSINESS REFERENCES FORM**

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 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.**



STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

<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		

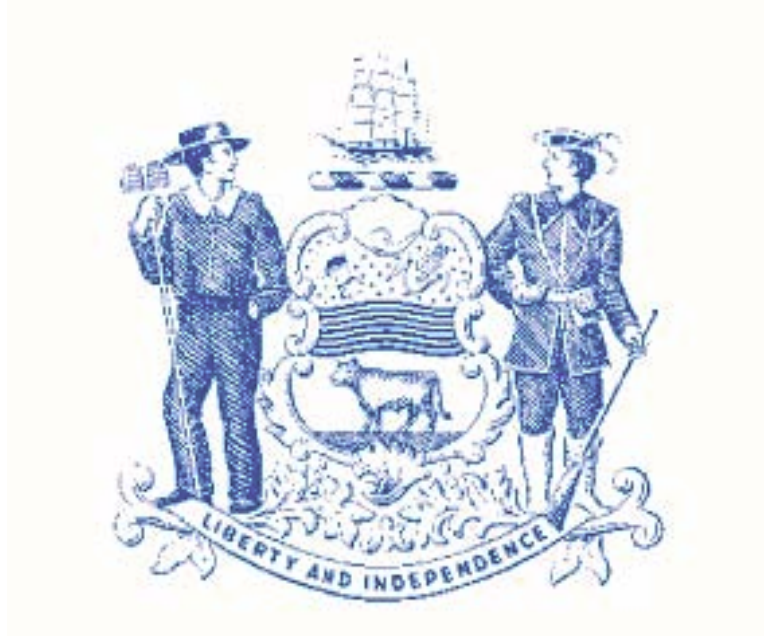
**Use a separate form for each subcontractor**

**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.  
THE OSD WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY VENDOR BID RESPONSE PACKAGES.**

### PROPOSAL REPLY REQUIREMENTS

The response should contain the following minimum information:

1. A brief Cover Letter including an Applicant's experience, if any, providing similar services.
2. Vendor shall provide a detailed description of services to be provided, and shall respond to the Scope of Work identified. Failure to adequately describe the extent of their abilities may affect how the state evaluates and scores the vendor proposal. **Does the response address, at a minimum:**
  - a. Requirement of the Vendor
  - b. Criteria of Scoring
  - c. Appendix A, Scope of Work
  - d. Appendix C, Pricing Spreadsheet

**Submission of Attachments only, is not sufficient.**

**Vendors are encouraged to review the Evaluation criteria to see how the proposals will be scored and verify that the response has sufficient documentation to support each scoring criteria identified.**

3. One (1) complete, signed and notarized copy of the Non-Collusion Agreement (Attachment 2). **MUST HAVE ORIGINAL SIGNATURES AND NOTARY MARK** – Form must be included.
4. One (1) completed RFP Exception Form (Attachment 3) – please check box if no information – Form must be included.
5. One (1) completed Profile and Capabilities Form (Attachment 4)
6. One (1) completed Confidentiality Form (Attachment 5) – please check if no information is deemed confidential – Form must be included.
7. One (1) completed Business Reference Form (Attachment 6) – 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 (Attachment 7) for each subcontractor – only provide if applicable.
9. One (1) complete OSD Application (see link on Attachment 10) – optional, 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.



**PROPOSAL REPLY REQUIREMENTS (CONT'D)**

Vendors shall compile all documentation noted above, and all other documents as required in the Scope of Work, Appendix A, and shall provide in the following format(s):

1. **THREE** paper copies of the vendor proposal paperwork.
2. **ONE** electronic copy of the vendor proposal saved to CD or DVD media disk, or USB memory stick. Any copies of electronic price files shall be included on the same electronic media, but shall be saved separately from.

## **Appendix A – STATEMENT OF WORK AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

### **A. OVERVIEW**

This RFP calls for proposals that detail experience, qualifications, and resources that reflect the Vendor's ability and willingness to provide effective workmanship. In those cases where the complete removal of trees is required, the contractor may also be required to remove stumps and all exposed roots to a depth of six (6) inches below the adjacent existing ground surface. The ground surface shall then be leveled with soil, and/or wood chips taken from the stump removal operation. It may be necessary to service the trees via a crane. The contractor must provide crew and equipment. This RFP does not include the application of any chemicals such as insecticides, fungicides, fertilizers etc.

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, through this solicitation, will create a short list of pre-qualified vendors for small tree trimming, pruning and removal services that can be used to obtain quotes from.

Vendors may be required to perform work after normal work hours, including weekends. This contract will be issued for tree trimming, pruning and removal services not exceeding \$45,000 in cost. Awarded vendors remain eligible to compete for projects in excess of \$45,000 but must be compliant with all public works regulations and/or policies, including prevailing wage law according to Delaware Code Title 29, Chapter 69, Subchapter IV.

### **B. GENERAL**

The State recognized the most current editions of the following industry practices for tree pruning:

1. ANSI A300 Pruning Standards;
2. ISA Best Management Practices: Tree Pruning;
3. ISA Best Management Practices: Utility Pruning of Trees; and
4. ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standards.

### **C. TREE PRUNING TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

Tree pruning should generally be accomplished in a manner most beneficial to the health and structure of the tree. The growth cycles of individual species as well as the type of pruning to be performed should be considered. If pruning is determined to be detrimental to the health of the tree due to the season, pruning may be delayed until a more suitable time. The State Contract Manager will communicate pruning objectives which include, but are not limited to reducing risk of failure, providing clearance, reducing shade and wind resistance, maintaining health or improving a view. Pruning objectives may be achieved through the following pruning methods:

#### **1. Crown Cleaning**

This method entails the selective removal of dead, diseased, dying, detached, cracked, broken, crossing, interfering or objectionable branches. It is done to reduce the risk of branches falling from the tree and to reduce the movement of decay, insects and diseases from dead or dying branches to other parts of the tree. The Contractor Manager may specify the minimum diameter branch size to be removed;

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

2. Crown Thinning

This method entails the selective removal of small, live branches to reduce crown density. The majority of branches removed should be on the outside edge of the crown where the majority of small branches are located. Thinning may also include the removal of basal sprouts and some water sprouts in the interior of the tree. Thinning increases sunlight penetration into the crown of the tree and air movement within the crown. Generally, no more than twenty-five (25) percent of live foliage should be removed during one year. The Contract Manager may specify the percentage of foliage to be removed;

3. Crown Raising (Elevation)

This method entails the selective removal of branches to provide vertical clearance for buildings, signs, vehicles, pedestrians and vistas. It is accomplished by removing or shortening some lower branches in the canopy. The live crown ratio after pruning should not be less than fifty (50) percent. The Contract Manager may specify the desired clearance distance and the size range of branches to be removed;

4. Crown Reduction

This method entails the selective removal of branches and stems to decrease the height and/or spread of a tree's crown. Portions of the crown that interfere with structures or the built environment are pruned back to a lateral branch. This type of pruning is also known as drop crotch pruning. Sections of the crown can also be removed to balance the canopy or reduce the likelihood of breakage on branches with defects. Not all tree species can effectively be reduced and removal may be a better option in some cases. The Contract Manager may specify the clearance distance, the percentage of size reduction and/or the size range for branch diameter;

5. Structural Pruning

This method is the selective removal of live branches and limbs to influence the orientation, spacing, growth rate, strength of attachment and ultimate size of branches and limbs. It is accomplished by removing co-dominant stems or subordinating branches in order to develop a dominant leader or desirable crown configuration. Structural pruning will probably need to be done multiple times as the tree initially develops. The Contract Manager may specify the maximum diameter of the reduction cuts.

6. Tree Inspection

Before beginning work and while work is being performed, the contractor should visually inspect each portion of the tree(s) including the crown, trunk, root flare, roots and surrounding area. The inspection should focus on potential hazards in the tree such as crotches with included bark, co-dominant limbs, weakly attached water sprouts, limbs with cracks, broken limbs, hanging branches and any signs of disease damage, insect damage or decay. If a condition is observed that requires additional attention, the Contract Manager shall be notified for authorization purposes. If serious conditions are found in the tree that cannot be corrected with arboriculture care, the option of tree removal should be presented to the State Contract Manager. Serious conditions include, but are not limited to, trees that are severely disfigured, are structurally unsound, have a significant amount of decay, or have a debilitating disease or disease vector that is well established.

7. Pruning Cuts

When removing a lateral branch at its point of origin on the trunk or parent limb, the final cut should be made in branch tissue as close as possible to the trunk or parent limb, without cutting into the branch bark ridge or branch collar, or leaving a stub. This is known as natural target pruning.

When removing a leader or length of a branch, the angle of the cut should bisect the angle between the branch bark ridge and an imaginary line perpendicular to the leader being removed.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

When removing a dead branch, the final cut should be made just outside the collar of living tissue. If the collar has grown out along the branch stub, only the dead stub should be removed. The live collar should remain intact and uninjured. To prevent damage to the parent limb when removing a branch with a narrow branch attachment, the final cut should be made from the bottom of the branch up.

Tree branches should be removed in such a manner so as to not cause damage to other parts of the tree or to other plants or property. Branches too large to support with one hand should be pre-cut to prevent splitting or tearing of the trunk. Where necessary, ropes or other equipment should be used to lower large branches or portions of branches to the ground.

When a branch is cut back to a lateral, as is the case with crown reduction pruning, the size of the lateral remaining should be large enough to assume the terminal role. The size of the lateral should be at least one-third to one-half the diameter of the parent limb or leader that is being removed.

Not more than twenty-five (25) percent of the foliage on a mature tree should be removed within a growing season unless the tree has been severely damaged by weather and restoration pruning is being done.

Trees should not be pruned in a manner which displaces foliar weight to the ends of the branches which may result in water sprouts, weakened branch structure or sun scald of the bark tissue. This type of pruning is referred to as "lion-tailing" and typically occurs if crown thinning is done incorrectly.

Using the size of the branch at the natural target cut location, the maximum diameter of branches to be removed for any pruning method is seven inches (7"). Any branch larger than seven inches in diameter should be approved by the Contract Manager prior to removal.

All hanging branches in any tree scheduled for pruning should be removed from the canopy of the tree. Branches that are still attached to the tree should be removed with a finish cut to a natural target.

**D. TREE REMOVAL**

Tree removal shall consist of cutting down each tree in a safe manner to a point not greater than six (6) inches above the adjacent ground level. Stumps shall be flush and level without pointed wood fibers projecting upward. Roadways, sidewalks, vehicles, buildings and other property shall always be protected from any impact of falling wood throughout the tree removal operation utilizing ropes, mechanical devices or other equipment.

**E. STUMP REMOVAL ONLY**

Work to be performed includes the removal of already existing stumps or stumps that were created during tree removals and all exposed roots. Stumps shall be removed to a depth of six (6) inches below the adjacent existing ground surface unless otherwise approved by the State Contract Manager. The ground surface shall then be leveled with soil, and/or wood chips taken from the stump removal operation. Stump removal shall be done at the direction of the State Contract Manager. The contractor must provide crew and equipment.

**F. PICK-UP AND DISPOSAL**

All of the work shall include the pickup and off-site disposal of all removed wood at the conclusion of each work day unless otherwise approved by the State Contract Manager. The State reserves the right to claim all wood chips which shall be void of all limbs and un-chipped pieces of wood, together with all other incidental work as provided for in the RFP.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

G. **CERTIFIED ARBORIST**

As part of this contract, each awarded vendor must have a Certified Arborist on staff and available to meet with Horticulture staff as needed.

Each Certified Arborist must be certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and must be able to submit a copy of the certification along with the bid.

H. **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

The Supplier(s) should provide Historical and Cultural Affairs a single, local point of contact (and a backup) to handle questions or problems that may arise. Supplier is responsible to provide immediate notification of any changes in Customer Service contract information to the Support Services Administrator overseeing the contract.

I. **PREVAILING WAGE**

The Supplier(s) shall be responsible for ensuring that all services, products and deliverables furnished pursuant to this Agreement comply with the standards promulgated by the Department of Labor and as modified from time to time during the term of this contract.

The prevailing wage law, 29 Del.C.6960, is enforced by the Department of Labor and states that the specifications for every contract or aggregate of contracts relating to a public works project in excess of \$500,000.00 for new construction or \$45,000 for alteration, repair, renovation, rehabilitation, demolition or reconstruction to which the State or any subdivision thereof is a party and for which the State appropriated any part of the funds and which requires or involves the employment of mechanics and/or laborers shall contain a provision stating the minimum wages to be paid various classes of laborers and mechanics which shall be based upon the wages that will be determined by the Delaware Department of Labor, Division of Industrial Affairs, to be prevailing in the county in which the work is to be performed.

Contractor is responsible for obtaining a prevailing wage determination from Department of Labor for each task order request. Such determination must be attached to the quote issues for the specified task order.

J. **CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENT**

Contractor shall supervise, direct the work, and be solely responsible for all construction requirements.

Contractors shall furnish all products and services required by the contractor in accordance with contract requirements. Subcontractors, if any, must be identified and a complete description of their role relative to the proposal must be identified.

Contractor must obtain all applicable permits needed.

Contractor will be required to perform the task order after normal State office hours, to minimize disruption to State business, if requested.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Contractor will not perform additional work not expressly defined in the Purchase Order unless an approved task order change has been approved by both parties in writing.

**K. ENVIRONMENTAL/SAFETY**

Contractor shall comply with applicable OSHA safety standard, any applicable Federal, State and Local regulations and ANSI Z133.1 practices, including employee qualifications. It is the responsibility of the contractor to protect their employees, subcontractors, and suppliers by providing a safe place of employment.

The contractor and their personnel are responsible for:

- Conforming to acceptable safety and health practices for the protection of all employees and property;
- Establishing and following their own safety program;
- Meeting all applicable fire safety and health regulatory requirements (such as OSHA, Department of Community Affairs/Division of Fire Safety, etc/);
- Reporting emergencies to the local emergency response agency through 911 system and in accordance with the contractor's own emergency plan. It is the contractor's responsibility to take corrective action and report workplace injuries to OSHA;
- Fire, police, medical and hazardous substance emergencies occurring on state property must also be reported to the Contract Manager;
- Using and maintaining their own safety and personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE must meet current ANSI standards; and
- Providing and using required safety equipment that includes, but not limited to:
  - Life line, harnesses, and fall protection systems;
  - First aid kit; and
  - Chainsaw chaps, protective helmets, hearing protection and other protective attire and equipment

The following is the minimum safety equipment and work attire to be worn while on the project sites:

- Head protection (hard hats) when overhead and bump hazards are present;
- Eye protection (safety glasses);
- Appropriate clothing for the task that is being performed; long pants and short sleeve shirt as a minimum;
- Appropriate footwear based on an assessment of hazards that may exist while performing work. Closed toed, slip resistant, puncture resistant sole footwear. Crush resistant toes or toe/metatarsal guards when the hazard warrants; and
- High visibility safety apparel, while exposed to road operations, vehicular traffic or working on the Right-Of-Way. Apparel shall meet the current ANSI 107 Standard. The performance class shall be chosen based on the ANSI Guidelines, however, Class 1 apparel shall not be considered acceptable for these work locations.

Appropriate control methods shall be used to reduce hazards. Work practices shall address the following special safety considerations:

- Elevated Work and Aerial Lift Equipment Work;
- Proximity to High Voltage Lines;
- Chainsaw and Landscape Equipment Use;
- Sloped and Slippery Surfaces;
- Proximity to Moving Vehicles and Traffic; and
- Proximity to Energized Conductor

**L. MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION OF TRAFFIC**

Due to the extremely large volume of traffic at all times on the roadways, maintenance and protection of traffic and employees, with minimum interference, is of prime importance and shall be provided by the contractor.

When vehicular or pedestrian traffic, or both, are to be maintained over the roadways within the scope of this contract, the contractor shall plan and carry out the work to provide for the safe and convenient passage of such traffic.

The contractor shall adhere to acceptable traffic control standards while working in areas where traffic may be affected and the safety of workers and the motoring public must be considered.

**M. EQUIPMENT AND CREW**

A crew shall include both laborers and equipment. At a minimum, a crew shall consist of either two (2), three (3) or four (4) personnel. All laborers shall be required to report with the equipment specified in good working condition to the designated work site with each assignment. All crew members shall wear ANSI high visibility apparel.

All personnel shall be physically able to do their assigned work and shall be free from communicable disease.

All personnel shall be capable employees thoroughly trained and qualified in the work assigned to them. All crew members shall meet the current minimum OSHA requirements.

The contractor shall remove from the work crew any of its personnel who are, in the opinion of the State, guilty of improper conduct or who are not qualified or needed to perform the work assigned to them. Examples of improper conduct include, but are not limited to: insobriety, sleeping on the job, insubordination, theft, tardiness or substance performance. The Contract Manager may direct that the contractor replace offending personnel immediately.

The Contract Manager may require the replacement and removal from the work crew any employee who is identified as a potential threat to the health, safety, security, general wellbeing or operational mission of the facility or its population. There shall be no consumption of alcoholic beverages while on State property or at any time during the work day.

The contractor's personnel shall observe all regulations in effect at the State agency, including security sign-on/sign-out procedures. While on State property, employees are subject to the control of the State. Under no circumstances shall the contractor or its personnel represent themselves as employees of the State.

All contractor's employees shall be subject to such security clearance as required by the Contract Manager. The contractor shall be responsible for insuring that employees have legal immigration status to work in the United States.

The contractor and its employees are responsible to remedy any damage or injury they cause to public or private property.

STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

The contractor shall cooperate with the utility owners concerned and shall notify them not less than one (1) day in advance of beginning work, except immediately in advance during emergency operations, of the time proposed to perform any work that may endanger or affect their facilities.

**N. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION**

The contractor shall provide to the State a list of all tree service equipment that shall be utilized for contract work. The contractor shall ensure that the provided equipment, owned or rented, is the same, or exceeds, what is specified on the list. An authorized State representative may inspect all equipment as necessary.

If a contractor chooses to rent equipment, a rental equipment agreement shall be in effect during the term of the contract.

**O. LOCATIONS**

This contract is for Department of State, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs properties. Currently, HCA has 43 properties located in all three counties: New Castle, Kent, and Sussex. Bidders must bid on each county separately on the Appendix B.

**P. JOB APPROVAL**

Contractor must agree to a scheduled final walk-through of the completed task order with a representative from the agency whom requested the work order. Acceptance of work must be in accordance to a site specific work order detailing all materials and work performed.

A work order form must be signed by the contractor and the agency's representative for a final acceptance of work approval. A copy of the work order is to be given to the contractor and the agency representative. The work order number must be provided with the invoice

**Q. SERVICE CORRECTIONS AND PENALTIES**

The ordering agency shall notify the contractor of any errors or deficiencies caused by the vendor within three (3) business days from the receipt of work performed and completed. The ordering agency must not be invoiced for the work performed and completed with errors or deficiencies, and shall be invoiced for the corrected work performed and completed.

If correction of errors or deficiencies from a work order is not completed within the specified schedule of three (3) business days, the cost for such service(s) will be reduced by five percent (5%) for each delayed day of correction of error. Total reduction in cost will not be less than five percent (5%), nor more than fifty percent (50%).

**R. JOB BID COMPETITION**

The State reserves the right to request quotes from multiple vendors awarded this contract for any given task order request.

Contractor is responsible for obtaining a prevailing wage determination from the Department of Labor for each task order request. Quote is to identify the labor rate, based on the prevailing wage



STATE OF DELAWARE  
Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

determination. Quote must clearly outline prevailing/non-prevailing labor rate, supplies required for the project and an estimated completion date. Travel time/expenses are the responsibility of the successful vendor and will not be reimbursed.

Project quotes are to be itemized and identify subcontractor to be used, if any. Subcontractors must be pre-approved, either through the original proposal response to this solicitation or through the contracting office, prior to inclusion on a task order request.

S. **RATES**

Responding vendors will identify, using Appendix B, a unit cost per hour to include labor (direct and indirect costs), materials, prep work and clean up.