

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION & ANALYSIS OF THE YRBS,
SCHOOL HEALTH PROFILES, & YTS SURVEYS
ISSUED BY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
RFP NUMBER HSS-26-057**

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I. Overview

The State of Delaware, Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health seeks professional services for the Administration & Analysis of the YRBS, School Health Profiles, & YTS Surveys. This request for proposals (“RFP”) is issued pursuant to 29 *Del. C.* §§ [6981](#) and [6982](#).

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

Public Notice	Date: May 14, 2026
Deadline for Questions	Date: June 4, 2026 at 4:30 PM EST
Response to Questions Posted by:	Date: June 25, 2026
Deadline for Receipt of Proposals	Date: July 16, 2026 at 1:00 PM EDT
Estimated Notification of Award	Date: August 7, 2026
Estimated Project Start Date	Date: November 1, 2026

Each proposal must be accompanied by a transmittal letter which briefly summarizes the proposing firm’s interest in providing the required professional services.

The transmittal letter must also clearly state and justify any exceptions to the requirements of Appendix D of the RFP (Templates for the Professional Service Agreement, Business Associate Agreement and DTI Terms & Conditions) which the applicant may have taken in presenting the proposal. (Applicant exceptions must also be recorded on Attachment 4).

Furthermore, the transmittal letter must attest to the fact, at a minimum, that the Vendor shall not store or transfer non-public State of Delaware data outside of the United States.

For technology related solicitations, Vendors may refer to the Delaware Department of Technology and Information identified terms and conditions included in this solicitation.

The State of Delaware reserves the right to deny any and all exceptions taken to the RFP requirements.

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

Questions may be submitted no later than June 4, 2026 @ 4:30 PM EST.

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All inquiries must be submitted in the Q/A section of the project listing in the Euna Procurement (formerly Bonfire) Portal (<https://dhss.bonfirehub.com>).

The Department's response to questions will be posted, according to the procurement schedule, under the project listing in Euna Procurement (formerly Bonfire) and to the State of Delaware Bid Solicitation Directory Website: <http://www.bids.delaware.gov/> by June 25, 2026.

II. Scope of Work

A. Background

Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) is a nationally accredited State Public Health agency, recognized by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) for demonstrating commitment to quality improvement, performance management, accountability, transparency, and ability to address public health needs. DPH serves as the center of a comprehensive network of public health services, establishing public health priorities and evaluating the effectiveness of health initiatives.

The mission of the Division of Public Health is to protect and enhance the health of the people of Delaware. The Division accomplishes its mission by:

- working together with others;
- addressing issues that affect the health of Delawareans;
- keeping track of the State's health;
- promoting positive lifestyles;
- responding to critical health issues and disasters;
- promoting the availability of health services.

The accomplishment of this mission will facilitate the Division in realizing its vision of creating an environment in which people in Delaware can reach their full potential for a healthy life.

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

In Delaware, the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) will consist of two components:

- the Delaware Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and
- the Delaware School Health Profiles (Profiles).

These two components are conducting in opposing years.

The YRBS is an approximately 130 question in-person survey taken by high school students in grades 9-12 in a randomly selected sample of Delaware public high schools in odd years. The sample of schools is selected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention based on a sampling frame provided by the contracted vendor.

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The YRBS will be conducted three times within the five-year project period (spring 2027, 2029, 2031). The Delaware Profiles are online/electronic surveys sent to and completed by school principals, and lead health education teachers related to school policies that impact health and health education curriculum. These surveys will be conducted with a randomly selected sample of Delaware public high schools twice within the five-year project period (spring 2028 and 2030).

In order for Delaware to receive weighted data that is usable, the Delaware YRBS must be completed by 70% of the students within the sampled selection of schools and the Profiles must be completed by 70% of identified principals and health education teachers within the sampled selection.

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), a project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), was developed in 1990 to monitor a selection of health behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death and disability. These behaviors are often developed during childhood and adolescence. Behaviors monitored through the YRBSS include those that relate to injuries, violence, unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (including HIV), alcohol and drug use, tobacco use, unhealthy dietary behaviors, and lack of physical activity. The YRBS is the largest evidence-based public health surveillance system in the U.S. and the only reliable source of state-level, health behavior data for the teen population in Delaware. Policies, systems, and environment influence health, and understanding the school context related to health is essential to ensuring equity among population health outcomes. The YRBSS also monitors the prevalence of obesity and asthma and provides data on demographic information and sexual identity. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System data provide methods for assessing health behaviors and trends over time, comparable data across states, and is a resource for performance management, program improvement, and policy priorities.

The collection of data on Delaware youth risk behaviors actively works to strengthen our capacity to address health inequities in Delaware. Health equity is defined as the attainment of the highest possible level of health for all people achieving the environmental, social, economic, and other conditions in which all people have the opportunity to attain their highest level of health. The important work and outcomes of these surveys help to understand disparities in the health outcomes and behaviors among Delaware youth.

Data from the YRBS and Profiles are used by the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Public Health (DPH), and a wide variety of other public, private and nonprofit agencies to plan, implement and evaluate effective health promotion and disease prevention programs to improve the health of Delaware residents. Data obtained from these surveys are also used in federal grant applications to secure federal grant funding for both public and private partners in the state. Without it, it is difficult to compete and tell Delaware's story. YRBS and Profiles provide key measures for a variety of state, Department of Education (DOE), and local school plans related to the education and prevention of risk behaviors in our youth.

Youth Tobacco Surveys (YTS)

The Delaware Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) is a state-level surveillance survey funded by the CDC that monitors tobacco use behaviors, secondhand smoke exposure, and

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tobacco-related attitudes and beliefs among youth. Beginning in 2000, this survey has been administered biennially to students in Delaware's public middle and high schools.

The YTS provides data for planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs aimed at preventing and eliminating youth tobacco use in Delaware. Community outreach partners use YTS data to develop age-appropriate youth programs at the local, county and state levels. The Delaware IMPACT Coalition uses YTS data to develop and evaluate the five-year statewide Plan for a Tobacco Free Delaware, and State Legislators use YTS findings to help inform state-wide policies aimed at reducing the health and economic impacts of tobacco use. The Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health uses YTS data to assess disparities in youth tobacco use and apply for state and federal funding to implement targeted tobacco prevention and control initiatives.

The Youth Tobacco Survey will be conducted two times within the five -year project period, in the 2027-28, and 2029-30 school years. Separate random samples of classrooms will be drawn from a census of public middle schools and high schools. Approximately 2100 students in grades 6 to 8 and 2500 students in grades 9 to 12 will complete the survey. The survey instrument has between 90-100 questions and will be administered using electronic and traditional pencil and paper formats.

The YTS has been administered as a pencil and paper survey in-person in randomly selected classrooms every other year since 2000. In 2016, an electronic version of the YTS was piloted with a small population of students as part of an exploratory research project aimed at enhancing accessibility of standardized health surveys. The project demonstrated the potential for computerized surveys, embedded with skip patterns, to reduce survey completion times, increase participation and improve comprehension among students with special needs. Administratively, online/computerized surveys offer potential savings in printing and processing costs and can improve the quality of the data by reducing the number of steps in data management.

As schools pivot to providing online learning as a result of COVID-19, moving to an online/computerized version of the survey has become not only feasible, but a preferable option than in previous years. During the pandemic and post-pandemic periods, giving schools the flexibility of choosing traditional pencil and paper and/or online/computerized survey formats is likely to improve school and student participation rates and ensure the viability of the YTS.

Please Note: The use of the terms 'bidders', vendors', 'contractors', and 'applicants' are used interchangeably when describing the activities outlined in this Scope of Services. Likewise, the use of 'shall', 'must', and 'will' are used interchangeably when describing applicant duties.

Project Overview

The purpose of this Request for Proposal is to solicit proposals that will allow the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Division of Public Health (DPH) to select the most qualified applicant to provide data collection and analyses services of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), the School Health Profiles (Profiles) survey, and the Delaware Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS).

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These surveys are grouped into two survey groups based on federal grant funding. Each survey group represents a separate contract. There are two contracts that will result from this RFP.

1. YRBS (conducted in odd-numbered years) and Profiles surveys (conducted in even-numbered years) are combined into one survey group
2. YTS survey (conducted in even-numbered years) is another survey group

The collection of data on Delaware youth risk behaviors actively works to strengthen our capacity to address health inequities in Delaware. Health equity is defined as the attainment of the highest possible level of health for all people achieving the environmental, social, economic, and other conditions in which all people have the opportunity to attain their highest level of health. The important work and outcomes of these surveys help to understand disparities in the health outcomes and behaviors among Delaware youth.

The purpose of the contract(s) resulting from the RFP is to provide the DHSS/ DPH and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with datasets containing a required minimum number of responses to the YRBS questionnaire, Profiles questionnaire, and YTS questionnaire. The surveys must be administered in accordance with established CDC policies, guidelines, and protocols.

For the first year of the contract, the selected contractor will sign contracts effective on or around November 1, 2026 covering the subsequent 12 months (or through October 31 of the following year). In subsequent years, the selected contractor will sign effective on or around November 1, covering the subsequent 12 months for each fiscal year of the remaining optional four one-year extension periods. The contractor agrees that the State retains all rights to the completed interviews and datasets, and that the contractor will not release any surveillance information or results without prior written approval from the State.

B. Project Goals

YRBS and Profiles Surveys

Goal 1: Increase the understanding of youth risk behaviors in Delaware.

Objective 1: Obtain weighted behavioral data for the middle and high school populations of Delaware by administering the YRBS to achieve a minimum 70% response rate of sampled students in order to obtain target sample size of an estimated 3,000 students, as determined by CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). These rates incorporate both school response rate and student response rate.

Goal 2: Increase the understanding of school health policies and practices in Delaware.

Objective 2: Administer School Health Profiles survey and achieve a minimum 70% response rate of sampled principals and health teachers in order to obtain target sample size as determined by CDC.

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For both goals, the objective is to obtain weighted data in accordance to, and in compliance of all policies, procedures, and protocols of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)

Goal 1: Increase understanding of the patterns, knowledge, and attitudes of tobacco use among youth in Delaware.

Objective 1: Monitor trends in use of traditional and emerging tobacco products among middle and high school students, as well as their exposure to secondhand smoke from tobacco products, perceptions of related health risks, and exposure to risk and protective factors influencing their attitudes and decisions around tobacco use.

Objective 2: Identify demographic and geographic disparities in risk of tobacco use among Delaware youth

Objective 3: Disseminate findings from YTS to key stakeholders and the public

Goal 2: Obtain valid population estimates of tobacco use among Delaware youth and obtain information regarding disparities in their patterns of tobacco use, including the risks and protective factors affecting sub-populations of students across multiple demographic variables.

Objective 1: Obtain weighted behavioral data for Delaware's middle and high school populations by administering two cycles of the Youth Tobacco Survey to an estimated 4500 public school students and attaining an overall response rate (school response x student response rate) of at least 70%.

Objective 2: Maximize student participation, survey comprehension and completion, and inclusion of students with disabilities by providing electronic and pencil and paper survey options.

Objective 3: Maximize school participation through the coordinated administration of youth health surveys, and supplementing incentives provided by YRBS to remainder of schools in the YRS. The purpose of all of these surveys is to help better inform the programs we provide in order to improve the overall health of Delawareans.

C. Scope of Work/Bidders Requirements

The State of Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, seeks professional services for the Administration and Analysis of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), School Health Profiles (Profiles) survey, and Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS).

Please refer to **Appendix B** for details/requirements for the Scope of Work.

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III. Required Information

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

A. Minimum Requirements

1. Provide Delaware license(s) and/or certification(s) necessary to perform services as identified in the scope of work.

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

2. Vendor shall provide responses to the Request for Proposal (RFP) scope of work and clearly identify capabilities as presented in the General Evaluation Requirements below.
3. Complete all appropriate attachments and forms as identified within the RFP.
4. Proof of insurance and amount of insurance shall be furnished to the Agency prior to the start of the contract period and shall be no less than as identified in the bid solicitation, Section V, Item G, subsection 8 (Insurance).

B. General Evaluation Requirements

1. Qualifications of Vendor
2. Methodology Proposed
3. Responses to Scope of Work, Appendix B
4. Ability to recruit, hire, schedule, and train qualified applicants
5. Evaluation of Costs

IV. Professional Services RFP Administrative Information

A. RFP Issuance

1. Public Notice

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

2. Obtaining Copies of the RFP

This RFP is available in electronic form through the State of Delaware Procurement website at <https://mmp.delaware.gov/Bids/> and on Euna Procurement (formerly Bonfire) at <https://dhss.bonfirehub.com>.

Paper copies of this RFP will not be available.

3. Assistance to Vendors with a Disability

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

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4. RFP Designated Contact

All requests, questions, or other communications about this RFP shall be made through Euna Procurement (formerly Bonfire) at <https://dhss.bonfirehub.com>.

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 Contracts, Management and Procurement contact.

The RFP designated contact is:

Bill Ingram
417 Federal Street, Dover, DE 19901
William.ingram@delaware.gov

Contracts, Management and Procurement Contact:

Eddie Mui
Management Analyst III
DHSS_DMS_dmsprocure@delaware.gov

5. Consultants and Legal Counsel

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

6. Contact with State Employees

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

7. Organizations Ineligible to Bid

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

8. Exclusions

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

- a. Has been convicted of commission of a criminal offense as an incident to obtaining or attempting to obtain a public or private contract or subcontract, or in the performance of the contract or subcontract:

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

B. RFP Submissions

1. Acknowledgement of Understanding of Terms

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

2. Proposals

To be considered, all proposals must be submitted in through Euna Procurement (formerly Bonfire) at <https://dhss.bonfirehub.com/> and respond to the items outlined in this RFP.

The State reserves the right to reject any non-responsive or non-conforming proposals.

Responses submitted by hard copy, mail, facsimile, or e-mail will not be accepted.

All proposals must be submitted prior to 1:00 PM EDT on July 16, 2026.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

- a. Proposals must be received before the Proposal Due Date and Time, as identified in the Procurement Schedule for this RFP.

Responses received after the Proposal Due Date and Time will not be accepted.

- b. Upload your submission at: <https://dhss.bonfirehub.com/>

Important Notes:

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- Logging in and/or uploading the file(s) does not mean the response is submitted. Users must successfully upload all the file(s) and MUST click the submit button before the proposal due date and time.
- Users will receive an email confirmation receipt with a unique confirmation number once the submission has been finalized. This will confirm that the proposal has been submitted successfully.
- Each submitted item of Requested Information will only become visible to DHSS after the proposal due date and time.
- If the file is mandatory, you will not be able to complete your submission until the requirement is met.
- Uploading large documents may take significant time depending on the size of the file(s) and your Internet connection speed. The maximum upload file size is 1000 MB.
- Minimum system requirements: Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, or Mozilla Firefox. Java Script must be enabled.
- **Notarizations are no longer required.**

Need Help? Please contact Euna Procurement (formerly Bonfire) directly at [Bonfire Hub](#), email to support.bonfire@eunasolutions.com, or call 1- 844-226- EUNA (3862) press 1 for customer support/technical questions or issues related to your submission. You can also visit their help forum at <https://customer.eunasolutions.com/public/s/contactsupport>.

Any proposal submitted after the Deadline for Receipt of Proposals date will not be accepted. 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.

3. Proposal Modifications

Any changes, amendments or modifications to a proposal must be submitted through Euna Procurement (formerly Bonfire) prior to the proposal due date. Changes, amendments, or modifications to proposals shall not be accepted or considered after the hour and date specified as the deadline for submission of proposals.

4. Proposal Costs and Expenses

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

5. Proposal Expiration Date

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Prices quoted in the proposal shall remain fixed and binding on the bidder at least through October 31, 2027. The State of Delaware reserves the right to ask for an extension of time if needed.

6. Late Proposals

Proposals submitted after the specified date and time will not be accepted by the Euna Procurement (formerly Bonfire) Portal. 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 by Euna Procurement (formerly Bonfire).

7. Proposal Opening

The State of Delaware will receive proposals via Euna Procurement (formerly Bonfire) until the date and time shown in this RFP. Proposals will be opened in the presence of State of Delaware personnel.

There will be no public opening of proposals, but a public log will be kept of the names of all vendor organizations that submitted proposals. The contents of any proposal shall not be disclosed in accordance with [29 Del. C. § 10001](#), et seq. (“FOIA”).

8. Non-Conforming Proposals

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

9. Concise Proposals

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

10. Realistic Proposals

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

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

11. Confidentiality of Documents

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

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to inspection and copying by any person upon a written request. All proposals are subject to FOIA's public disclosure obligations.

(Note: A FOIA request can be made by emailing dhss.foia@delaware.gov. DHSS will comply with the request after the RFP has been awarded.)

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 separate file(s) identified as "Confidential Business Information" and include the specific RFP number. The file must contain a letter from the vendor's legal counsel describing the documents in the file, 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 separate file(s), the State of Delaware will open the file 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 in a proposal may enter the public domain.

12. Multi-Vendor Solutions (Joint Ventures)

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

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Vendor of responsibility for the professional and technical accuracy and adequacy of the work. Further, vendor shall be and remain liable for all damages to the State of Delaware caused by negligent performance or non-performance of work by its subcontractor or its sub-subcontractor.

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

a. Primary Vendor

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

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

Nothing in this section shall prohibit the State of Delaware from the full exercise of its options under Section IV.B.18 regarding multiple source contracting.

b. Sub-contracting

The vendor selected shall be solely responsible for contractual performance and management of all subcontract relationships. This contract does not allow subcontracting assignments.

The prime vendor shall be wholly responsible for the entire contract performance whether or not subcontractors are used.

c. Multiple Proposals

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

13. Sub-Contracting

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

The use of subcontractors WILL NOT be permitted for this project.

If a subcontractor is going to be used, this needs to be specified in the proposal, with an identification of the proposed subcontractor by name, the service(s) to be provided, and its qualifications to provide such service(s).

Subcontractors will be held to the same requirements as the primary contractor.

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The contract with the primary contractor will bind sub or co-contractors to the primary contractor by the terms, specifications, and standards of the RFP. All such terms, specifications, and standards shall preserve and protect the rights of the agency under the RFP and any subsequent proposals and contracts with respect to the services performed by the sub or co-contractor, so that the sub or co-contractor will not prejudice such rights. Nothing in the RFP shall create any contractual relation between any sub or co-contractor and the agency.

14. Discrepancies and Omissions

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

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

15. State's Right to Reject Proposals

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

16. State's Right to Cancel Solicitation

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

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

17. State's Right to Award Multiple Source Contracting

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

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18. 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 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.

19. Supplemental Solicitation

The State reserves the right to advertise a supplemental solicitation during the term of the Agreement if deemed in the best interest of the State.

20. Notification of Withdrawal of Proposal

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

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

21. Revisions to the RFP

If it becomes necessary to revise any part of the RFP, an addendum will be posted on the State of Delaware's website at www.bids.delaware.gov and <https://dhss.bonfirehub.com>. The State of Delaware is not bound by any statement related to this RFP made by any State of Delaware employee, contractor or its agents.

22. Exceptions to the RFP

Any exceptions to the RFP, or the State of Delaware's terms and conditions, must be recorded on Attachment 4. Acceptance of exceptions is within the sole discretion of the evaluation committee.

23. Business References

Provide at least three (3) business references consisting of current or previous customers of similar scope and value using Attachment 6. Include business name, mailing address, contact name and phone number, number of years doing business with, and type of work performed. Personal references cannot be considered.

24. Award of Contract

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

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

a. RFP Award Notifications

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

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

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

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

25. 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. **State of Delaware terms will take precedence.**

C. RFP Evaluation Process

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

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

1. Proposal Evaluation Team

The Proposal Evaluation Team shall be comprised of representatives of the State of Delaware. The Team shall determine which vendors meet the minimum requirements pursuant to selection criteria of the RFP and procedures established in 29 *Del. C.* §§ [6981](#) and [6982](#). Professional services for this solicitation are considered under 29 *Del. C.* § 6982(b). The Team may negotiate with one or more vendors during the same period and may, at its discretion, terminate negotiations with any or all vendors. The Team shall make a recommendation regarding the award to the director of the Division of Public Health, who shall have final authority, subject to the provisions of this RFP and 29 *Del. C.* § [6982\(b\)](#), to award a contract to the successful vendor in the best interests of the State of Delaware.

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2. Proposal Selection Criteria

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

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

The Team reserves the right to:

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

Criteria Weight

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

Criteria	Weight
Qualifications of vendor a) Administrative Oversight b) Past experience in successfully operating quality programs of a similar type and with a similar population c) Quality Assurance Program details d) Available resources	25
Methodology Proposed a) Services proposed fit needs as expressed in RFP b) Proposed activities follow a logical sequence c) Adequacy of workplan & timeline schedules d) Builds on existing work of the Division’s planning efforts	20
Responses to Scope of Work, Appendix B	25

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Criteria	Weight
The degree to which the bidder demonstrates the potential ability to recruit, hire, schedule, and train qualified applicants.	15
Evaluation of the proposed costs as they relate to the proposed service delivery.	15
Total	100%

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

3. Proposal Clarification

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

4. References

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

5. Oral Presentations

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

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

The vendor representative(s) attending the oral presentation shall be technically qualified to respond to questions related to the proposed system and its components.

All of the vendor's costs associated with participation in oral discussions and system demonstrations conducted for the State of Delaware are the vendor's responsibility.

v. Contract Terms and Conditions

A. Contract Use by Other Agencies

REF: Title 29, Chapter [6904\(e\)](#) Delaware Code. If no state contract exists for a certain good or service, covered agencies may procure that certain good or service under another

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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.

B. Cooperative Use of Award

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

C. General Information

- 1. The term of the contract between the successful bidder and the State shall be for one (1) year with four (4) optional extensions for a period of one (1) year for each extension.**
2. As a Service subscription license costs shall be incurred at the individual license level only as the individual license is utilized within a fully functioning solution. Subscription costs will not be applicable during periods of implementation and solution development prior to the State's full acceptance of a working solution. Additional subscription license requests above actual utilization may not exceed 5% of the total and are subject to Delaware budget and technical review.
3. The selected vendor will be required to enter into a written agreement with the State of Delaware. The State of Delaware reserves the right to incorporate standard State contractual provisions into any contract negotiated as a result of a proposal submitted in response to this RFP. Any proposed modifications to the terms and conditions of the standard contract are subject to review and approval by the State of Delaware. Vendors will be required to sign the contract for all services and may be required to sign additional agreements.
4. The selected vendor or vendors will be expected to enter negotiations with the State of Delaware, which will result in a formal contract between parties. Procurement will be in accordance with subsequent contracted agreement. This RFP and the selected vendor's response to this RFP will be incorporated as part of any formal contract.
5. The State of Delaware's standard contract will most likely be supplemented with the vendor's software license, support/maintenance, source code escrow agreements, and any other applicable agreements. The terms and conditions of these agreements will be negotiated with the finalist during actual contract negotiations.
6. The successful vendor shall promptly execute a contract incorporating the terms of this RFP within twenty (20) days after award of the contract. No vendor is to begin any service prior to receipt of a State of Delaware purchase order signed by two authorized representatives of the agency requesting service, properly processed through the State of Delaware Accounting Office and the Department of Finance. The purchase order shall serve as the authorization to proceed in accordance with

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the bid specifications and the special instructions, once it is received by the successful vendor.

7. If the vendor to whom the award is made fails to enter into the agreement as herein provided, the award will be annulled, and an award may be made to another vendor. Such vendor shall fulfill every stipulation embraced herein as if they were the party to whom the first award was made.
8. 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.
9. Vendors are not restricted from offering lower pricing at any time during the contract term.

D. Collusion or Fraud

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

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

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

E. Lobbying and Gratuities

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

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

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

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F. Solicitation of State Employees

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

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

G. General Contract Terms

1. Independent Contractors

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

It may be at the State of Delaware's discretion as to the location of work for the contractual support personnel during the project period. The State of Delaware may provide working space and sufficient supplies and material to augment the Contractor's services.

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

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

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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.

3. Work Performed in a State Building

Awarded Vendor(s) who have any employees carrying out any work related to the awarded contract at a State facility shall have those employees comply with any health mandate or policy issued by the State related to a pandemic or other State of Emergency issued by any State authority during the term of the awarded contract, including those that apply directly to State employees.

4. ACA Safe Harbor

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

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

5. Licenses and Permits

In performance of the contract, the vendor will be required to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, codes, and regulations. The cost of permits and other relevant costs required in the performance of the contract shall be borne by the successful vendor. The vendor shall be properly licensed and authorized to transact business in the State of Delaware as provided in [30 Del. C. § 2101](#).

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

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

6. Notice

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

Bill Ingram
Division of Public Health
417 Federal Street, Dover, DE 19901
William.ingram@delaware.gov

7. 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 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);

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- (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.

8. Insurance

- a. Vendor recognizes that it is operating as an independent contractor and that it is liable for any and all losses, penalties, damages, expenses, attorney's fees, judgments, and/or settlements incurred by reason of injury to or death of any and all persons, or injury to any and all property, of any nature, arising out of the vendor's negligent performance under this contract, and particularly without limiting the foregoing, caused by, resulting from, or arising out of any act of omission on the part of the vendor in their negligent performance under this contract.
- b. 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.
- c. 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 type of service or product being delivered.
 - (1) Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance in accordance with applicable law.
 - (2) Commercial General Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence/\$3,000,000 per aggregate.
 - (3) Automotive Liability Insurance covering all automotive units used in the work (including all units leased from and/or provided by the State to Vendor pursuant to this Agreement as well as all units used by Vendor, regardless of the identity of the registered owner, used by Vendor for completing the Work required by this Agreement to include but not limited to transporting Delaware clients or staff), providing coverage on a primary non-contributory basis with limits of not less than:
 - (a) \$1,000,000 combined single limit each accident, for bodily injury;
 - (b) \$250,000 for property damage to others;
 - (c) \$25,000 per person per accident Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists coverage;
 - (d) \$25,000 per person, \$300,000 per accident Personal Injury Protection (PIP) benefits as provided for in 21 *Del. C.* §2118; and

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- (e) Comprehensive coverage for all leased vehicles, which shall cover the replacement cost of the vehicle in the event of collision, damage or other loss.
- d. The successful vendor must carry at least one of the following depending on the scope of work being performed.
 - (1) Medical/Professional Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence/\$3,000,000 per aggregate
 - (2) Miscellaneous Errors and Omissions - \$1,000,000 per occurrence/ \$3,000,000 per aggregate
 - (3) Product Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence/\$3,000,000 aggregate
- e. Should any of the above described policies be cancelled before expiration date thereof, notice will be delivered in accordance with the policy provisions.
- f. Before any work is done pursuant to this Agreement, the Certificate of Insurance and/or copies of the insurance policies, referencing the contract number stated herein, shall be filed with the State. The certificate holder is as follows:

State of Delaware
Division of Public Health
Contract No: HSS-26-057
417 Federal Street, Dover, DE 19901
- g. Nothing contained herein shall restrict or limit the Vendor's right to procure insurance coverage in amounts higher than those required by this Agreement. To the extent that the Vendor procures insurance coverage in amounts higher than the amounts required by this Agreement, all said additionally procured coverages will be applicable to any loss or claim and shall replace the insurance obligations contained herein.
- h. To the extent that Vendor has complied with the terms of this Agreement and has procured insurance coverage for all vehicles Leased and/or operated by Vendor as part of this Agreement, the State of Delaware's self-insured insurance program shall not provide any coverage whether coverage is sought as primary, co-primary, excess or umbrella insurer or coverage for any loss of any nature.
- i. In no event shall the State of Delaware be named as an additional insured on any policy required under this agreement.
- j. The vendor shall provide a Certificate of Insurance (COI) as proof that the vendor has the required insurance. The COI shall be provided to agency contact prior to any work being completed by the awarded vendor(s).
- k. The State of Delaware shall not be named as an additional insured.

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

9. Performance Requirements

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

10. BID BOND

There is no Bid Bond Requirement.

11. PERFORMANCE BOND

There is no Performance Bond requirement.

12. 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.

13. Warranty

The Vendor will provide a warranty that the deliverables provided pursuant to the contract will function as designed for a period of no less than one (1) year from the date of system acceptance. The warranty shall require the Vendor correct, at its own expense, the setup, configuration, customizations or modifications so that it functions according to the State's requirements.

14. Costs and Payment Schedules

All contract costs must be as detailed specifically in the Vendor's cost proposal. No charges other than as specified in the proposal shall be allowed without written consent of the State of Delaware. The proposal costs shall include full compensation for all taxes that the selected vendor is required to pay.

The State of Delaware will require a payment schedule based on defined and measurable milestones. Payments for services will not be made in advance of work performed. The State of Delaware may require holdback of contract monies until acceptable performance is demonstrated (as much as 25%).

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15. Liquidated Damages

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

16. Dispute Resolution

At the option of the parties, they shall attempt in good faith to resolve any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement 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, the parties elect 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 a mediator selected by the parties. If the matter is not resolved through mediation, it may be submitted for arbitration or litigation. The Agency 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 State of Delaware law, and jurisdiction and venue shall be in the State of Delaware. Each party shall bear its own costs of mediation, arbitration, or litigation, including attorneys' fees.

17. Remedies

Except as otherwise provided in this solicitation, including but not limited to Section V.G.15 above, all claims, counterclaims, disputes, and other matters in question between the State of Delaware and the Contractor arising out of, or relating to, this solicitation, 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.

18. Termination of Contract

The contract resulting from this RFP may be terminated as follows by Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Public Health.

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 twenty (20) days before the effective date of such termination. In that event, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, maps, models, photographs, and reports or other material prepared by the Vendor under this Contract shall, at the option of the State, become its property, and the Vendor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any

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satisfactory work completed on such documents and other materials which is usable to the State.

On receipt of the contract cancellation notice from the State, the Vendor shall have no less than five (5) days to provide a written response and may identify a method(s) to resolve the violation(s). A vendor response shall not affect 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 twenty (20) days before the effective date of such termination. In that event, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, models, photographs, reports, supplies, and other materials shall, at the option of the State, become its property and the Vendor shall be entitled to receive compensation for any satisfactory work completed on such documents and other materials, and which is usable to the State.

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.

19. Non-discrimination

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

20. Covenant against Contingent Fees

The successful vendor will warrant that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement of understanding for a commission or percentage, brokerage or contingent fee excepting bona-fide employees, bona-fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the Vendor for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation

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of this warranty the State of Delaware shall have the right to annul the contract without liability or at its discretion to deduct from the contract price or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee.

21. Vendor Activity

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

22. 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 Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Public Health.

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. 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,

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may apply for a waiver to the primary agency listed in the solicitation. The Agency's decision to allow or deny access to any individual identified on a registry database is final and at the Agency's sole discretion.

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

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

26. 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](#)

27. Work Product

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

28. Contract Documents

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

29. Applicable Law

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

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

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

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

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

30. 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.

31. 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.

32. Scope of Agreement

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

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33. 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.

VI. 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.

8. IRS 1075 Publication (If Applicable)

a. Performance

In performance of this contract, the Contractor agrees to comply with and assume responsibility for compliance by officers or employees with the following requirements:

- (1) All work will be performed under the supervision of the contractor.
- (2) The contractor and contractor's officers or employees to be authorized access to FTI must meet background check requirements defined in IRS Publication 1075. The contractor will maintain a list of officers or employees authorized access to FTI. Such list will be provided to the agency and, upon request, to the IRS.
- (3) FTI in hardcopy or electronic format shall be used only for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this contract. FTI in any format shall be treated as confidential and shall not be divulged or made known in any manner to any person except as may be necessary in the performance of this contract. Inspection or disclosure of FTI to anyone other than the contractor or the contractor's officers or employees authorized is prohibited.
- (4) FTI will be accounted for upon receipt and properly stored before, during, and after processing. In addition, any related output and products require the same level of protection as required for the source material.
- (5) The contractor will certify that FTI processed during the performance of this contract will be completely purged from all physical and electronic data storage with no output to be retained by the contractor at the time the work is completed. If immediate purging of physical and electronic data storage is not possible, the contractor will certify that any FTI in physical or electronic storage will remain safeguarded to prevent unauthorized disclosures.

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- (6) Any spoilage or any intermediate hard copy printout that may result during the processing of FTI will be given to the agency. When this is not possible, the contractor will be responsible for the destruction of the spoilage or any intermediate hard copy printouts and will provide the agency with a statement containing the date of destruction, description of material destroyed, and the destruction method.
- (7) All computer systems receiving, processing, storing, or transmitting FTI must meet the requirements in IRS Publication 1075. To meet functional and assurance requirements, the security features of the environment must provide for the managerial, operational, and technical controls. All security features must be available and activated to protect against unauthorized use of and access to FTI.
- (8) No work involving FTI furnished under this contract will be subcontracted without the prior written approval of the IRS.
- (9) Contractor will ensure that the terms of FTI safeguards described herein are included, without modification, in any approved subcontract for work involving FTI.
- (10) To the extent the terms, provisions, duties, requirements, and obligations of this contract apply to performing services with FTI, the contractor shall assume toward the subcontractor all obligations, duties and responsibilities that the agency under this contract assumes toward the contractor, and the subcontractor shall assume toward the contractor all the same obligations, duties and responsibilities which the contractor assumes toward the agency under this contract.
- (11) In addition to the subcontractor's obligations and duties under an approved subcontract, the terms and conditions of this contract apply to the subcontractor, and the subcontractor is bound and obligated to the contractor hereunder by the same terms and conditions by which the contractor is bound and obligated to the agency under this contract.
- (12) For purposes of this contract, the term "contractor" includes any officer or employee of the contractor with access to or who uses FTI, and the term "subcontractor" includes any officer or employee of the subcontractor with access to or who uses FTI.
- (13) The agency will have the right to void the contract if the contractor fails to meet the terms of FTI safeguards described herein.

b. Criminal/Civil Sanctions

- (1) Each officer or employee of a contractor to whom FTI is or may be disclosed shall be notified in writing that FTI disclosed to such officer or employee can be used only for a purpose and to the extent authorized herein, and that further disclosure of any FTI for a purpose not authorized herein constitutes a felony punishable upon conviction by a fine of as much as \$5,000 or imprisonment for as long as 5 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution.
- (2) Each officer or employee of a contractor to whom FTI is or may be accessible shall be notified in writing that FTI accessible to such officer or employee may be accessed only for a purpose and to the extent authorized herein, and that access/inspection of FTI without an official need-to-know for a purpose not authorized herein constitutes a criminal misdemeanor punishable upon conviction by a fine of as much as \$1,000 or imprisonment for as long as 1 year, or both, together with the costs of prosecution.

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- (3) Each officer or employee of a contractor to whom FTI is or may be disclosed shall be notified in writing that any such unauthorized access, inspection or disclosure of FTI may also result in an award of civil damages against the officer or employee in an amount equal to the sum of the greater of \$1,000 for each unauthorized access, inspection, or disclosure, or the sum of actual damages sustained as a result of such unauthorized access, inspection, or disclosure, plus in the case of a willful unauthorized access, inspection, or disclosure or an unauthorized access/inspection or disclosure which is the result of gross negligence, punitive damages, plus the cost of the action. These penalties are prescribed by IRC sections 7213, 7213A and 7431 and set forth at 26 CFR 301.6103(n)-1.

Additionally, it is incumbent upon the contractor to inform its officers and employees of the penalties for improper disclosure imposed by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a. Specifically, 5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(1), which is made applicable to contractors by 5 U.S.C. 552a(m)(1), provides that any officer or employee of a contractor, who by virtue of his/her employment or official position, has possession of or access to agency records which contain individually identifiable information, the disclosure of which is prohibited by the Privacy Act or regulations established thereunder, and who knowing that disclosure of the specific material is so prohibited, willfully discloses the material in any manner to any person or agency not entitled to receive it, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$5,000.

- (4) Granting a contractor access to FTI must be preceded by certifying that each officer or employee understands the agency's security policy and procedures for safeguarding FTI. A contractor and each officer or employee must maintain their authorization to access FTI through annual recertification of their understanding of the agency's security policy and procedures for safeguarding FTI. The initial certification and recertifications must be documented and placed in the agency's files for review. As part of the certification and at least annually afterwards, a contractor and each officer or employee must be advised of the provisions of IRC sections 7213, 7213A, and 7431 (see Exhibit 4, Sanctions for Unauthorized Disclosure, and Exhibit 5, Civil Damages for Unauthorized Disclosure). The training on the agency's security policy and procedures provided before the initial certification and annually thereafter must also cover the incident response policy and procedure for reporting unauthorized disclosures and data breaches. (See Section 10) For the initial certification and the annual recertifications, the contractor and each officer or employee must sign, either with ink or electronic signature, a confidentiality statement certifying their understanding of the security requirements.

c. Inspection

The IRS and the Agency, with 24-hour notice, shall have the right to send its inspectors into the offices and plants of the contractor to inspect facilities and operations performing any work with FTI under this contract for compliance with requirements defined in IRS Publication 1075. The IRS' right of inspection shall include the use of manual and/or automated scanning tools to perform compliance and vulnerability assessments of information technology (IT) assets that access, store, process or transmit FTI. Based on the inspection, corrective actions may be required in cases where the contractor is found to be noncompliant with FTI safeguard requirements.

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9. Other General Conditions

- a. **Current Version** – “Packaged” application and system software shall be the most current version generally available as of the date of the physical installation of the software.
- b. **Current Manufacture** – Equipment specified and/or furnished under this specification shall be standard products of manufacturers regularly engaged in the production of such equipment and shall be the manufacturer’s latest design. All material and equipment offered shall be new and unused.
- c. **Volumes and Quantities** – Activity volume estimates and other quantities have been reviewed for accuracy; however, they may be subject to change prior or subsequent to award of the contract.
- d. **Prior Use** – The State of Delaware reserves the right to use equipment and material furnished under this proposal prior to final acceptance. Such use shall not constitute acceptance of the work or any part thereof by the State of Delaware.
- e. **Status Reporting** – The selected vendor will be required to lead and/or participate in status meetings and submit status reports covering such items as progress of work being performed, milestones attained, resources expended, problems encountered, and corrective action taken, until final system acceptance.
- f. **Regulations** – All equipment, software and services must meet all applicable local, State and Federal regulations in effect on the date of the contract.
- g. **Assignment** – Any resulting contract shall not be assigned except by express prior written consent from the Agency.
- h. **Changes** – No alterations in any terms, conditions, delivery, price, quality, or specifications of items ordered will be effective without the written consent of the State of Delaware.
- i. **Billing** – The successful 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.
- j. **Payment** – The State reserves the right to pay by Automated Clearing House (ACH) or Purchase Card (P-Card). The agencies will authorize and process for payment of each invoice within thirty (30) days after the date of receipt of a correct invoice. 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 as invoiced.
- k. **W-9** – The State of Delaware requires a new vendor to complete the registration process through the Delaware Supplier Portal at <http://esupplier.erp.delaware.gov>. Successful completion of this registration enables the creation of a State of Delaware supplier record. The Taxpayer ID (SSN or EIN) and Applicant (supplier) 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 registration or specific comments about the registration, please contact supplier maintenance by phone at 302-672-5000
- l. **Purchase Orders** – Agencies that are part of the First State Financial (FSF) system are required to identify the contract number **HSS-26-057** on all Purchase Orders (P.O.) and shall complete the same when entering P.O. information in the state’s financial reporting system.

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- m. **Purchase Card** – 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.
- n. **Additional Terms and Conditions** – The State of Delaware reserves the right to add terms and conditions during the contract negotiations.

vii. RFP Miscellaneous Information

A. 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.

B. Definitions of Requirements

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

C. Production Environment Requirements

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

viii. Attachments

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

- Attachment 1 – No Proposal Reply Form
- Attachment 2 – Vendor Information Form (refer to Appendix C)
- Attachment 3 – Non-Collusion Statement (refer to Appendix C)
- Attachment 4 – Exceptions (refer to Appendix C)
- Attachment 5 – Confidentiality & Proprietary Information (refer to Appendix C)

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- Attachment 6 – Business References (refer to Appendix C)
- Attachment 7 – Subcontractor Information Form (refer to Appendix C)
- Attachment 8 – Monthly Usage Report
- Attachment 9 – Subcontracting (2nd Tier Spend) Report
- Attachment 10 – Office of Supplier Diversity Application
- Appendix A – Minimum Response Requirements
- Appendix B – Scope of Work / Technical Requirements
- Appendix C – Forms
 - Vendor Information Form (Attachment 2)
 - Non-Collusion Statement (Attachment 3)
 - Exception Form (Attachment 4)
 - Confidentiality Form (Attachment 5)
 - Business References (Attachment 6)
 - Subcontractor Information Form (Attachment 7), if applicable
- Appendix D – Templates/Sample Agreements
 - Professional Services Agreement
 - Business Associate Agreement
 - DTI Terms & Conditions

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IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE

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

REQUIRED REPORTING

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

A complete and accurate Usage Report (Attachment 8) shall be furnished in an Excel format and submitted electronically, no later than the 15th (or next business day after the 15th day) of each month, detailing the purchasing of all items and/or services on this contract. The reports shall be completed in Excel format, using the template provided, and submitted as an attachment to Dale Goodine dale.goodine@delaware.gov, with a copy going to the contract officer identified as your point of contact. Submitted reports shall cover the full month (Report due by January 15th will cover the period of December 1 – 31.), contain accurate descriptions of the products, goods or services procured, purchasing agency information, quantities procured, and prices paid. Reports are required monthly, including those with “no spend”. Any exception to this mandatory requirement or failure to submit complete reports, or in the format required, may result in corrective action, up to and including the possible cancellation of the award. Failure to provide the report with the minimum required information may also negate any contract extension clauses. Additionally, Vendors who are determined to be in default of this mandatory report requirement may have such conduct considered against them, in assessment of responsibility, in the evaluation of future proposals.

AGENCIES MAY NOT REMOVE SUBCONTRACTING 2ND TIER REPORTS – Reporting is required by Executive Order.

In accordance with [Executive Order 49](#), the State of Delaware is committed to supporting its diverse business industry and population. The successful Vendor will be required to accurately report on the participation by Diversity Suppliers which includes minority (MBE), woman (WBE), veteran owned business (VOBE), or service-disabled veteran owned business (SDVOBE) under this awarded contract. The reported data elements shall include but not be limited to; name of state contract/project, the name of the Diversity Supplier, Diversity Supplier contact information (phone, email), type of product or service provided by the Diversity Supplier and any minority, women, veteran, or service-disabled veteran certifications for the subcontractor (State OSD certification, Minority Supplier Development Council, Women’s Business Enterprise Council, VetBiz.gov). The format used for Subcontracting 2nd Tier report is shown as in Attachment 9.

Accurate 2nd Tier reports shall be submitted to the contracting Agency’s contract manager on the 15th (or next business day) of the month following each quarterly period. For consistency quarters shall be considered to end the last day of March, June, September and December of

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each calendar year. Contract spend during the covered periods shall result in a report even if the contract has expired by the report due date.

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Attachment 1

NO PROPOSAL REPLY FORM

Contract No. HSS-26-057

Title: Administration & Analysis of the YRBS, School Health Profiles, & YTS Surveys

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 bid 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.

Attachment 2 to Attachment 7

Contained in Appendix C under a separate file.

- Vendor Information Sheet (Attachment 2)
- Non-Collusion Statement (Attachment 3)
- Exceptions Form (Attachment 4)
- Confidential Information Form (Attachment 5)
- Business References (Attachment 6)
- Subcontractor Form (Attachment 7), if applicable

Please go to Appendix C for a separate file for these Attachments:

“HSS-26-057 – AppC-Vendor Frms.xlsx”

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Attachment 9

SAMPLE REPORT - FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY

State of Delaware																				
Subcontracting (2nd tier) Quarterly Report																				
Prime Name:						Report Start Date:														
Contract Name/Number						Report End Date:														
Contact Name:						Today's Date:														
Contact Phone:						*Minimum Required			Requested detail											
<u>Vend or Name</u> *	<u>Vend or TaxID</u> *	Contra ct Name/ Numbe r*	Vend or Conta ct Name *	<u>Vend or Conta ct Phon e</u> *	Repo rt Start Date *	Repo rt End Date *	Amount Paid to Subcontra ctor*	Work Performed by Subcontra ctor UNSPSC	M/WB E Certifyi ng Agency	Veteran/Ser vice Disabled Veteran Certifying Agency	2nd tier Suppli er Name	2nd tier Suppli er Addre ss	2nd tier Suppli er Phone Numb er	2nd tier Suppli er email	<u>Descript ion of Work Perform ed</u>	2nd tier Suppli er Tax Id	Dat e Paid			

Note: Completed reports shall be saved in an Excel format and submitted to the following email address: osd@delaware.gov. The form can be located at [Office of Supplier Diversity - Division of Small Business - State of Delaware](#), bottom of the page, 'Services and Information' section, 'Subcontractor Reporting Form'.



The Office of Supplier Diversity (OSD)

Supplier Diversity Certification Application Portal can be found here:
[Office of Supplier Diversity Certification Application Portal](#)

For more information, please send an email to OSD:
osd@delaware.gov or call 302-577-8477

[Subscribe](#) to the OSD Mailing List

Carvel State Building
820 N. French Street, 10th Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801

Telephone: 302-577-8477 / Fax: 302-736-7915

Email: osd@delaware.gov

Web site: <https://business.delaware.gov/osd/>

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



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APPENDIX A

MINIMUM MANDATORY SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

1. Transmittal Letter as specified on page two (2) of the Request for Proposal including an Applicant's experience, if any, providing similar services.
2. The proposal package shall identify how the vendor proposes meeting the contract requirements and shall include pricing. Vendors are encouraged to review the Evaluation criteria identified to see how the proposals will be scored and verify that the response has sufficient documentation to support each criteria listed.
3. Detailed budget proposal for services outlined in the RFP. This should include all costs related to the services proposed. See Appendix B Scope of Work, Section titled "Line Item Budget" for details.
4. One (1) completed Vendor information Sheet (See Attachment 2 – in Appendix C).
5. One (1) complete and signed Non-collusion agreement (See Attachment 3 – in Appendix C)).
6. One (1) completed RFP Exception form (See Attachment 4 – in Appendix C) – please check box if no information – Form must be included.
7. One (1) completed Confidentiality Form (See Attachment 5 – in Appendix C) – please check if no information is deemed confidential – Form must be included.
8. One (1) completed Business Reference form (See Attachment 6 – in Appendix C)) – please provide references other than State of Delaware contacts – Form must be included.
9. Note: Subcontractor Information Form is NOT needed since this Solicitation will not allow the use of subcontractor(s) (See Attachment 7 – in Appendix C)).

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

Vendors shall provide proposal packages in the following formats:

1. Proposals shall be submitted online at <https://dhss.bonfirehub.com/>

APPENDIX B

SCOPE OF WORK AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Please also refer to the Scope of Work noted on pages 3-7 to address in your Proposal/Executive Summary.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

All components listed in this section are mandatory.

This describes the Project and what the Contractor must do to complete the Project satisfactorily. It also describes what the vendor must deliver as part of the completed Project and provides a detailed description of the Project's Schedule.

Service Delivery Area

The Service Delivery Area is the state of Delaware

Available Funds

- The source of funding is primarily federal grant funds.
- Applicants can assume that funding in the amount of **\$100,000** will be available for Year 1 (12-month period) to conduct all components outlined in this RFP project for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and Profiles surveys. This federal funding is applied for each year in order to administer either the YRBS or Profiles survey, depending upon whether it is an 'odd' year (when the YRBS is conducted) or even year (when the Profiles is conducted). Depending on availability of funding and vendor performance, services associated with this Request for Proposal may continue for four (4) additional years.
- Applicants can assume that funding in the amount of **\$62,000** will be available for Year 1 (12-month period) to conduct all components outline in this RFP project for the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) survey. This federal funding is applied for each year in order to administer the YTS survey. Depending on availability of funding and vendor performance, services associated with this Request for Proposal may continue for four (4) additional years.
- Actual total awards and individual contract funding levels may vary from that listed or funding may be withdrawn completely, depending on availability of funding from CDC or any other grounds determined by the Department to be in the Department's best interests.

Schedule of Important Dates (All times and dates listed are local Delaware time).

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- The following dates are set forth for informational purposes. The Department reserves the right to change them.

Project Overview

- This project period consists of three YRBS survey cycles and two Profiles survey cycles, administered in opposing years.

In this RFP, please respond to the first year of the YRBS for contract period November 1, 2026 through October 31, 2027 AND the first year of the Profiles survey cycle anticipated to be conducted in the contract period November 1, 2027 through October 31, 2028.

Scope of Work

Survey/Contract Group	1		2
Survey Name	YRBS	SHP	YTS
Odd Years	Administer Survey	Analyze Results	N/A
Even Years	Analyze Results	Administer Survey	Administer Survey

I. For the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) in Delaware (Year 1):

The contractor will conduct interviews among randomly selected students using the procedures and protocols specified in the *CDC Handbook for Conducting Youth Risk Behavior Surveys* for the given year of data collection. Questionnaires will be provided by CDC and the Division of Public Health for each calendar year. Copies of the most recent YRBS questionnaires may be viewed online at:

[https://www.cdhs.udel.edu/seow/school-surveys/youth-risk-behavior-survey-\(yrbs\)](https://www.cdhs.udel.edu/seow/school-surveys/youth-risk-behavior-survey-(yrbs))

The target sample size is expected to be approximately 3,000 completed interviews per year for the YRBS. Sample size is determined by CDC.

The Division expects the following activities to be completed for the administration of the YRBS survey (first YRBS survey cycle November 1, 2026 – October 31, 2027).

The contractor shall:

Planning

1. Designate a single contact person to communicate with the Division, the CDC, and the CDC’s contractor (Westat) regarding the activities outline in this contract.
2. Prepare a draft survey plan and timeline. Contractor will consult and collaborate with the Division in the development and fulfillment of the sampling frame and questionnaire to be submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for approval for the appropriate survey being administered in that year. The contractor shall submit this to the Division for approval and make any requested revisions.

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3. Identify incentives for participating schools and/or students. The contractor shall submit the incentive plan to the Division for approval and make any requested revisions.

Data Management

1. The contractor will prepare a data management plan that includes the contractor's plan to maintain data confidentiality, IT security, and communication of confidentiality of responses to participants.

Recruitment and Follow-Up

1. Identify and coordinate with school officials responsible for assisting with the administration of youth surveys within schools selected for the sample.
2. Contact approximately 40-50 schools (as identified by CDC) to enlist their participation in the YRBS and explain expectations for survey administration.
 - a. Send project information package to each selected school. (Note: Contractor will be responsible for printing copies and mailing).
 - b. Conduct follow-up calls to get confirmation of participation and to get information of contact person to coordinate survey at each school.
 - c. Set up a call tracking system and record communications with schools. Share call tracking information with the Division as requested.
 - d. Contractor will track participation rates for surveys and continue to communicate with school that have not yet taken the survey using a combination of email, phone calls, and in-person visits as needed to increase participation.
 - e. Obtain classroom lists and work with the Division and selected schools to select classes for surveying, if necessary.
 - f. Follow-up with schools to ensure their participation. This may include in-person visits and meetings at schools.
3. For schools that do not initially agree to participate, contact with the sample school must include one (1) face-to-face recruitment meeting. Contact may also include phone calls, emails, letters, or other appropriate forms of contact. For refused schools, a minimum of five contacts need to be attempted and documented.
4. Obtain master student rosters with guidance provided by DPH and the CDC technical assistance website, for the sample schools that agree to participate in the survey, in order to randomly select the classrooms in which the survey will be administered. Number of classrooms selected will be dictated by CDC sampling protocol.
5. Contractor will prepare for an on-site administration of the YRBS surveys according to CDC and Westat, (national technical assistance providers for the project), define protocols and timelines, and will work with Westat to address any technical concerns prior to and after launching the surveys.

Survey Administration

1. Contractor will answer questions from schools, parents, or others, regarding the survey. This shall include emphasizing the connection between health and educational outcomes.

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2. Contractor will work with leadership at selected schools to implement desired consent procedures. The Division anticipates using passive consent for this project unless specific school districts request active consent for their students.
 - a. Monitor parents' permission form responses and notify the Division of any encountered issues, if necessary.
3. Contractor will prepare written instructions for teachers or school staff that will administer surveys, including instructions on how to return the answer sheets to the contractor. The contractor shall answer questions from survey administrators.
 - a. Training for administering the surveys shall include the techniques of survey administration in accordance with the CDC *Handbook for Conducting Youth Risk Behavior Surveys* survey protocol.
4. Contractor will hold a minimum of two conference calls to explain survey instructions and respond to questions from school staff administering the survey. These calls shall be held on different days and at different times of the day to allow for maximum participation. At least one conference call should be recorded and made available to participating schools.
5. With input from participating schools, prepare schedule for survey administration within schools and send to the Division for review and approval. Make any requested edits.
6. Ensure the administration of surveys according to contractor-prepared and Division-approved schedule.
7. Print, prepare, and send survey packets, including surveys, answer sheets, instructions, and any other Division-approved materials.
 - a. Contractor will provide a PDF copy of the final YRBS questionnaire for Division approval. The contractor shall print the correct number for each school.
8. Administer the on-site YRBS survey preferably during the January – June time frame but may also conduct the surveys in the August – December time frame, which would need to be discussed and approved by the Division. The successful vendor should plan to immediately administer the YRBS in Spring 2027 and conduct planning to conduct SHP administration Spring 2028.
 - a. Contractor responsible for conducting survey administration in selected sample schools.
9. Deliver incentives to participating schools and students, with the approval of the Division.
10. Document participation of schools, classes, and students by using a tracking form.
11. Monitor the return of answer sheets using the tracking form provided by the Division and submit form to the Division and Westat every two weeks or as agreed upon by the contractor and the Division.
12. Follow-up with schools to ensure timely return of completed answer sheets.
 - a. Contractor will collect all master scantron sheets from all participating sample schools in the manner identified by the CDC.
13. Communicate non-response to the Division on a schedule agreed upon by the Contractor and the Division.
14. Prepare answer sheets for scanning and send answer sheets to designated contact at CDC (Westat).
 - a. Copy any photocopied surveys onto blank questionnaire booklets.
 - b. Copy any damaged or badly folded surveys onto blank questionnaire booklets (needed only if a survey will not be readable by scanning program).
 - c. Copy any surveys with stray marks or writing onto blank questionnaire booklets (needed only if a survey will not be readable by scanning program).

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- d. Color over selected in a #2 pencil if any questionnaires have been completed in ink.
- e. Follow all Division instructions for sending the completed questionnaires to Westat.
- f. In the shipping materials provided by the CDC, ship all answer sheets, along with required documentation to the CDC's contractor, Westat, to compile data.

Dissemination and Quality Improvement

1. Assist with the dissemination of findings and results through reports provided to the Division. At a minimum, the contractor will provide survey results back to participating schools in a manner approved by the Division.
2. Contractor will disseminate YRBS survey data in their corresponding years to DPH, DOE, and other stakeholders addressing the needs of Delaware youth, and upon request, prepare reports on the YRBS data and analyze responses and trends.
3. Contractor will collaborate with DPH to analyze YRBS data for salient findings and incorporate these into data products that may include infographics, presentations, etc. In collaboration with DPH, the contractor will select several data products to produce a limited number of hard copies for dissemination.
4. Contractor will make such infographics and presentations available for posting to the Delaware State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) and/or to the DPH or other online portals as appropriate.
5. Using YRBS and SHP data, on request, the contractor will provide aggregated data on populations with disparate needs to DPH, DOE, and other stakeholders working with Delaware youth as requested.
6. Maintain frequent communication with the Division regarding the progress of the project and any barriers or challenges encountered.
7. Correspond with Division of Public Health (DPH) health education director monthly through means of conference calls regarding assignments, electronic submission of YRBS data, progress of meeting deliverables for both the YRBS and SHP.
8. Attend a meeting with the Division after the administration of the survey is complete to discuss the project and provide input on any potential improvements for the next YRBS. This meeting may be held in-person, virtually, or via conference call.

II. For the School Health Profiles (SHP) Description of Work and Services (Year 2)

NOTE: The Division prefers for the School Health Profiles be administered via an online survey. Approval for this may need to be approved by CDC for the successful contract bidder. If the Division is not granted permission to administer this survey online, paper-based School Health Profiles survey will be administered instead. Therefore, a contractor will be responsible for doing either an online or paper-based School Health Profiles (as instructed by the Division), but not both. For the purposes of responding to this RFP, applicants should anticipate that this survey will continue to be administered online.

The Division expects the following activities to be completed for the administration of the School Health Profiles (first Profiles survey cycle 8/1/2027 – 7/31/2028):

Planning

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1. Designate a single contact person to communicate with the Division, the CDC, and the CDC's contractors (Westat) regarding the activities outline in this contract.
2. Prepare a draft survey plan and timeline. Submit this to the Division and make any requested revisions.
3. Identify incentives for participating teachers/principals and/or schools. The contractor shall submit the incentive plan to the Division for approval and make any requested revisions.
4. Ensure access to online survey administration software.
5. Upload approved School Health Profiles questionnaires into online software.
6. Program, review, and seek approval for online School Health Profiles questionnaire.
 - a. Include required skip patterns within survey.
 - b. Enter data from approximately 10 test questionnaires.
 - c. Export data from test questionnaires and format files into required format.
 - d. Send test files to Westat for review and approval.
 - e. Make any required adjustment to the questionnaire based on feedback from Westat, CDC, and the Division.

Data Management

1. The contractor will prepare a data management plan that includes the contractor's plan to maintain data confidentiality, IT security, and communication of confidentiality of responses to participants.

Survey Administration and Follow-up

1. Prepare and send personalized letters to principals and lead health education teachers that introduce the project and inform participants of the upcoming survey.
 - a. Solicit lead health education teacher contact information from school principals as needed.
2. Send email invitations to participants using Division-approved language.
3. Deploy the Profiles survey to school principals and lead health teachers using web-survey administration system (or via-mail).
4. Maintain a tracking document for all returned questionnaires and send tracking document to Westat and the Division every two weeks, or as agreed upon by the contractor and the Division.
5. Send reminders to participants for completion of the Profiles survey, and follow-up with non-responding individuals. This follow-up should include, at a minimum, the steps outlined below. Follow-up may include travel to schools.
 - a. First follow-up: send thank you/reminder postcards or emails.
 - b. Second follow-up: mail a paper of the survey packet via priority mail.
 - c. Third follow-up: call non-respondents with an offer to send another packet or gather the information over the phone.
6. Review incoming questionnaires for errors or omissions, and follow-up with respondents as needed to get information.
7. Enter data in survey administration system from any paper-based surveys used through follow-up procedures if necessary.
8. Answer respondent questions regarding the survey. This shall include emphasizing the connection of education policy, systems, and environment to health outcomes.
9. Send preliminary version of datasets to Westat to test the export function of the web-based survey administration system.

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10. Complete documentation forms and send exported data files to Westat.
11. Deliver incentives to participants, as approved by the Division.

Dissemination and Quality Improvement

1. Maintain frequent communication with the Division regarding the progress of the project and any barriers or challenges encountered.
2. Assist the Division with disseminating results. At a minimum, the contractor shall provide survey results back to participating schools in a manner approved by the Division.
3. Contractor will disseminate Profiles survey data in their corresponding year to DPH, DOE, and other stakeholders addressing the needs of Delaware youth, and upon request, prepare reports on the Profiles data and analyze data and trends.
4. Using Profiles data, on request, the contractor will provide aggregated data as requested by DPH.
5. Attend a meeting with the Division after the administration of the School Health Profiles is complete to discuss the project and provide input on any potential improvements for the next School Health Profiles cycle.
6. Correspond with Division of Public Health (DPH) health education director monthly through means of conference calls regarding assignments, electronic submission of Profiles data, and progress of meeting deliverables for both the YRBS and Profiles.
7. Complete additional outreach and dissemination of Profiles results.

III. For the Youth Tobacco Survey Scope of Services (Year 1 of the cycle is 2027 and 2028. Year 2 of the cycle is 2029 and 2030)

DHSS/DPH will:

- Obtain school-level enrollment data and post-stratification data from the Delaware Department of Education
- Identify sampling parameters and prepare stratified random samples of classrooms from a census of public schools and alternative programs, based upon county and school/program size
- Develop the survey questions and prepare long-form and skip pattern versions of survey instrument, intended for print and electronic platforms, respectively.
- Facilitate communication with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Provide letters of support, as needed, to secure IRB approval and school and parental consent for participation in the YTS
- Review and provide feedback on draft deliverables within two weeks of submission

The Contractor will:

Year 1

1. Prepare a coordinated survey administration plan aimed at streamlining the administration of school-based youth surveys in Delaware Public Schools. The purpose is to minimize disruption of school schedules and maximize efficiency in collecting school-based student data. The plan will encompass at a minimum, the Delaware School Survey, YRBS and YTS. The plan will identify and describe the involvement of key stakeholders in the planning process. Components of the plan will include, but not be limited to, preliminary outreach to schools, obtaining consent from principals, identifying school level point-of-contact (POC) for survey administration, obtaining parental and student consent, obtaining master list of classrooms,

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- prioritizing sampled class selection process among the surveys, scheduling and rescheduling of schools, and provision of school incentives.
2. Submit a detailed project timeline and proposed dissemination plan.
 3. Conduct a preliminary outreach to schools to:
 - Obtain school consent to participate in the surveys
 - Identify the school level coordinator for the surveys
 - Determine whether the school will be using pencil and paper surveys, participating electronically, or using a hybrid approach
 - If hybrid, estimate the number/proportion of students who will be taking the survey online and in person (pencil & paper).
 4. Advise DHSS/DPH on the sampling frame for middle and high school samples, and the inclusion of detention centers and alternative/special programs and schools.
 5. Prepare the pencil & paper surveys and print survey booklets. This includes:
 - finalize the content of survey in consultation with the Division of Public Health (DPH);
 - identify software that will be used to develop scannable survey booklets
 - construct the formatted survey file using designated software to complete field coding that will enable scanning and analysis
 - submit the document file to printer and revise as necessary
 - proof the draft and obtain final approval of draft from DPH
 - Based upon preliminary outreach to schools, estimate the number of printed copies of the survey booklet that will be needed
 - order the printed booklets and bundle surveys for administration.
 6. Prepare an electronic survey and administrative protocol. This will include:
 - identify the platform and software that will be used to develop the electronic versions of the survey and allow for downloading of survey data into a formatted database
 - construct the formatted survey file with skip patterns and embedded accessibility features such as sizing, blocking, American Sign Language (ASL), and graphics of tobacco products
 - arrange for DPH to review the computerized survey and test skip patterns and approve the finalized survey content
 - develop an administration protocol that assures data security and student confidentiality are maintained at each step in the process.
 7. Submit copies of approved finalized survey instruments to DPH
 8. The Contractor will obtain prior approval from DPH on any changes to the standard CDC protocol for YTS survey administration.
 9. Secure IRB approval for the YTS, with support from DPH as needed.
 10. Identify and train data collectors to administer in-person surveys and facilitate the administration of the electronic version of the survey as indicated in the approved protocol. Copies of instructions and training materials will be submitted to DPH for review and approval at least two weeks prior to the scheduled training/distribution.

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Years 1 & 2

11. Obtain consent from schools for the administration of the survey, and from parents to allow their students to participate in the survey. This includes sending information to the schools about the Youth Tobacco Survey and sending an informational letter home to parents in the weeks before classroom administration.
12. Administer the Youth Tobacco Survey to approximately 4,600 students in public schools in grades ranging from six to twelve. The Contractor will work with the school POC to administer the YTS in accordance with CDC and DPH approved protocols, and provide accommodations as needed to maximize student participation. The timeframe for administering the survey will be between November 15 (Y1) and June 30 (Y2).
13. Contractor will provide continuous oversight to data collectors, monitoring to assure that protocols are followed, fielding questions, and tracking the participation of schools and classrooms, and the completion of surveys.
14. Copies of updated Middle School and High School login sheets and completed school and classroom level forms for each surveyed school will be submitted to DPH according to the following schedule:

(Y1)	October 1 – November 30	by December 15 th
(Y2)	December 1 – January 31	by February 15 th ,
	February 1 – March 31	by April 15 th
	April 1 – June 15 th	by July 1 st

The final login sheet and completed school and classroom level forms will be submitted no later than July 15.

15. The contractor will complete preliminary processing of the surveys on an ongoing basis, bursting surveys for scanning, scan and troubleshoot any scanning issues in order to prepare data for cleaning, weighting, and analysis.
16. Contractor will arrange monthly meetings with DPH to provide status updates and discuss any issues that may have arisen and provide an updated timeline upon request.

Year 2

17. Contractor will prepare, screen, and scan the pencil and paper booklets and compile the data into an electronic data set, adding variables (county, school, class) that will be used to weight the data. Data collected from electronic surveys will be downloaded and formatted to be consistent with the data from the pencil and paper surveys. Any potential weighting issues will be resolved before the two data sets are merged.
18. Contractor will clean and weight the data using algorithms used by CDC/RTI for previous YTS surveys, and as agreed upon with DPH. Weighting should be completed, and frequency tables provided to DPH by August 1.

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19. The contractor will provide copies of the Middle and High School data sets with documentation, printable files of the Middle and High School frequencies for all variables and descriptive tables for all variables by August 31.

The contractor will provide draft narratives of the summary highlights report and/or other proposed dissemination materials by November 1 and submit revised final report &/or other materials based on DPH input by December 20.

The state may choose one vendor encompassing all required expertise for this Request for Proposal (RFP); however, the state may opt to select more than one vendor under this RFP – namely:

- a) one vendor to conduct administration of the YRBS and Profiles surveys, and
b) another vendor to conduct administration of the YTS.**

If multiple vendors are selected, collaboration of vendors to administer the surveys is expected. The purpose of having two contracts is to separate distinct federal funding streams.

Qualifications and Experience

Applicants must present sufficient information to demonstrate experience and staff expertise to carry out the activities outline in this RFP. A statement must be included that the vendor either has or certifies he/she will secure a Delaware Business License prior to initiation of the start of a contract under this RFP. Attach articles of incorporation and IRS certification of tax-exempt status if applicable.

The specific individuals who will work on this project must be identified, along with the nature and extent of their involvement. The qualifications of these individuals shall be presented (in resumes or other formats). If conducting this project will require hiring of one or more individuals who are not currently employed by the bidding organization, applications shall provide detailed job descriptions, including required qualifications and experience. If subcontractors are to be used, the proposal shall also contain similar information regarding each subcontractor.

Staffing

Staffing must be sufficient to implement the project as described in this RFP. The contractor must, at a minimum, designate a single person to be the Delaware YRBS Project Lead, a single person to be the Delaware School Health Profiles Project Lead, and a single person to be the Youth Tobacco Survey Lead. These three positions may be the same individual or three different individuals. These positions will serve as the primary contacts for communication between the Division and the contractor's organization regarding this project.

Line Item Budget

Applicants shall submit three (3) separate line-item budgets for each area (YRBS, SHP, and YTS) describing how funds will be utilized. Budget should include an amount per hour along

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with an estimation of time per activity. Modifications to the budget after the award must be approved by the Division of Public Health.

Applicants shall also describe any factors that may have an impact on the cost and should suggest a payment schedule contingent upon completion of the various tasks.

Applicants will demonstrate a budget adequate to support the work of the application based on the specific line-item categories outline below. A budget justification narrative shall describe how the budget was calculated and justify the expenses detailed. **Applicants will provide three complete budgets:**

- **one for the YRBS,**
- **one for the School Health Profiles, and**
- **one for the YTS.**

Direct Cost Categories

Allowable budget line categories for direct cost expenses include:

1. Salary and Fringe Benefits

The applicant shall include all staff salary and fringe amounts directly funded, wholly or partially with these funds. A justification for each staff charged to this project shall include the staff position title, the annual salary and fringe for the position, and the full-time equivalent (FTE) portion to be charged to these funds.

2. Equipment

Equipment may not be purchased with these funds.

3. Other

This category may include items such as office supplies, educational supplies, educational supplies, project supplies, incentives, communication, rent and utilities (if not included in Administrative or Indirect Costs), training, information technology-related expense, travel, etc. and should reflect any major activities required to accomplish the action plan or work plan.

At a minimum, this category must include budget line categories for incentives, printing, and postage. Travel within the state of Delaware is allowable.

Indirect or Administrative Costs

Indirect or Administrative Costs are capped at (limited to) 12% of the direct costs proposed in the budget. The total budget may not exceed total available funds.

Administrative costs are those that are incurred for common or joint objectives and therefore cannot be identified readily and specifically with a sponsored program but are nevertheless necessary to the operations of the organization. For example, the costs of operating and maintaining facilities, depreciation and administrative salaries are generally treated as indirect/administrative costs. The Division reserves the right to negotiate the application of the Indirect Rate per individual contract.

Applicants shall maintain documentation to support the administrative cost allocation. The Division reserves the right to request the documentation at any time.

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Required Reporting

The Division requires periodic reporting of compliance with proposed action plan, provision of services, and incurred expenses by success applicants. The reports and submission requirements are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Division.

Anticipated reports for the YRBS contract period include:

- Youth Risk Behavior Survey Project Plan and Timeline Report
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Management Plan
- Monthly progress reports – these reports will include details about progress towards fulfilling activities detailed in the action plan, etc.
- Monthly invoice and support documentation
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey Response Rate Report
- Tracking Form Report

Performance Measures and Accountability

The Division anticipates the following performance measures to be included in a successful applicant's contract.

Year 1

- YRBS: By June 30, 2027, the contractor shall document that 70% of students selected to complete the youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) have a completed survey form. The Program will determine that this performance measure has been met by reviewing and approving the contractor's responses on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey Response Rate and the final Tracking Form Report

The Division will classify any partially completed surveys according to CDC guidelines for determining response rates.

The contractor shall submit any documentation required for the performance measure into the monthly progress reports component.

YTS: Completion of Year 1 deliverables as described in YTS Scope of Services

Year 2

- School Health Profiles: By June 30, 2028, the contractor shall document that 70% of principals and lead health educators selected to complete School Health Profiles have completed survey forms. The Division will determine that this performance measure has been met by reviewing and approving the contractor's responses on the School Health Profiles Response Rate Report and the final Tracking Form Report.

The Division will classify any partially completed surveys according to CDC guidelines for determining response rates.

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The contractor shall submit any documentation required for the performance measure into the monthly progress reports component.

YTS: Completion of deliverables as described in Year 2 YTS Scope of services by the agreed upon dates. Attainment of an Overall participation rate (school participation x student participation) of 60% each county and statewide.

APPENDIX C

REQUIRED FORMS

Please refer to separate file:
“HSS-26-057 – AppC–Vendor Frms.xlsx”

- **Vendor Information Sheet (Attachment 2)**
- **Non-Collusion Statement (Attachment 3)**
- **Exceptions Form (Attachment 4)**
- **Confidential Information Form (Attachment 5)**
- **Business References (Attachment 6)**
- **Subcontractor Form, (Attachment 7), if applicable**

APPENDIX D

Templates/Sample Agreements

These **Templates/Sample Agreements** will be used to negotiate the final version of the Contract between Vendor and the State of Delaware.

These are ONLY Samples and as Placeholders

Please refer to separate file:
“HSS-26-057 - AppD–Templates-PSA, BAA and DTI T&Cs.docx”

- **Professional Service Agreement**
- **Business Associate Agreement**
- **DTI Terms & Conditions**