

Solicitation Number HHS0011339

Exhibit A. HHS SOLICITATION AND CONTRACT AFFIRMATIONS

In this document, HHS includes both the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). System Agency refers to HHSC, DSHS, or both, that will be a party to any Contract (also referred to as “Funding Agreement” or “Notice of Award”) resulting from the Request for Applications (Solicitation). In this document, the terms Respondent, Contractor, Applicant, and Vendor, when referring to the following affirmations (whether framed as certifications, representations, warranties, or in other terms) refer to Respondent, and the affirmations apply to all Respondents regardless of their business form (e.g., individual, partnership, corporation). To the extent applicable for DFPS solicitations, the definition of System Agency includes DFPS. HHS has determined entities receiving funds under the Solicitation are beneficiaries, not subrecipients. These Solicitation and Contract Affirmations apply to all beneficiaries. All references to Respondent, Contractor, Applicant or Vendor in these affirmations include Beneficiaries receiving funds under the Solicitation.

Respondent must provide information, as applicable, and affirms, without exception, as follows:

1. Respondent represents and warrants that all certifications, representations, warranties, and other provisions in this Affirmations and Solicitation Acceptance apply to Respondent and all of Respondent’s principals, officers, directors, shareholders, partners, owners, agents, employees, subcontractors, independent contractors, and any other representatives who may provide services under, who have a financial interest in, or otherwise are interested in this Solicitation or any Contract resulting from this Solicitation.
2. **Complete and Accurate Information.** Respondent represents and warrants that all statements and information provided to HHS are current, complete, and accurate. This includes all statements and information in this Solicitation Response.
3. **Public Information Act.** Respondent understands that HHS will comply with the Texas Public Information Act (Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code) as interpreted by judicial rulings and opinions of the Attorney General of the State of Texas. Information, documentation, and other material prepared and submitted in connection with this Solicitation or any resulting Contract may be subject to public disclosure pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act. In accordance with Section 2252.907 of the Texas Government Code, Respondent is required to make any information created or exchanged with the State pursuant to the contract, and not otherwise excepted from disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act, available in a format that is accessible by the public at no additional charge to the State.
4. **Contracting Information Requirements.** Respondent represents and warrants that it will comply with the requirements of Section 552.372(a) of the Texas Government Code. Except as provided by Section 552.374(c) of the Texas Government Code, the requirements of Subchapter J (Additional Provisions Related to Contracting Information), Chapter 552 of the Government Code, may apply to the Contract and the Respondent agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Respondent knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

5. **Confidential or Proprietary Information.** Respondent acknowledges its obligation to specifically identify information it contends to be confidential or proprietary and, if Respondent designated substantial portions of its Solicitation Response or its entire Solicitation Response as confidential or proprietary, the Solicitation Response is subject to being disqualified.
6. **Binding Offer.** Respondent's Solicitation Response will remain a firm and binding offer for 240 days from the date the Solicitation Response is due.
7. **Assignment.** Respondent shall not assign its rights under the Contract or delegate the performance of its duties under the Contract without prior written approval from System Agency. Any attempted assignment in violation of this provision is void and without effect. Respondent understands and agrees the System Agency may in one or more transactions assign, pledge, or transfer the Contract. Upon receipt of System Agency's notice of assignment, pledge, or transfer, Respondent shall cooperate with System Agency in giving effect to such assignment, pledge, or transfer, at no cost to System Agency or to the recipient entity.
8. **Terms and Conditions.** Respondent accepts the Solicitation terms and conditions unless specifically noted by exceptions advanced in the form and manner directed in the Solicitation. No exceptions, terms, or conditions will be considered if not advanced in the form and manner directed in the Solicitation. Respondent agrees that all exceptions to the Solicitation as well as terms and conditions advanced by Respondent that differ in any manner from HHS' terms and conditions are rejected unless expressly accepted by System Agency in writing in a fully executed contract.
9. **HHS Right to Use.** Respondent agrees that HHS has the right to use, produce, and distribute copies of and to disclose to HHS employees, agents, and contractors and other governmental entities all or part of Respondent's Solicitation Response as HHS deems necessary to complete the procurement process or comply with state or federal laws.
10. **Release from Liability.** Respondent generally releases from liability and waives all claims against any party providing information about the Respondent at the request of HHS.
11. **Addenda and Amendments to Solicitation.** Respondent acknowledges all addenda and amendments to the Solicitation.
12. [Deleted.]
13. [Deleted.]
14. **Dealings with Public Servants.** Respondent has not given, has not offered to give, and does not intend to give at any time hereafter any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor, or service to a public servant in connection with this Solicitation Response, this Solicitation, or any Contract resulting from this Solicitation.
15. **Financial Participation Prohibited.** Under Section 2155.004, Texas Government Code (relating to financial participation in preparing solicitations), Respondent certifies that the individual or business entity named in this Response or Contract is not ineligible to receive the specified Contract and acknowledges that this Contract may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.

16. **Prior Disaster Relief Contract Violation.** Under Sections 2155.006 and 2261.053 of the Texas Government Code (relating to convictions and penalties regarding Hurricane Rita, Hurricane Katrina, and other disasters), the Respondent certifies that the individual or business entity named in this bid or Contract is not ineligible to receive the specified Contract and acknowledges that this Contract may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
17. [Deleted.]
18. **Suspension and Debarment.** Respondent certifies that it and its principals are not suspended or debarred from doing business with the state or federal government as listed on the *State of Texas Debarred Vendor List* maintained by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and the *System for Award Management (SAM)* maintained by the General Services Administration. This certification is made pursuant to the regulations implementing Executive Order 12549 and Executive Order 12689, Debarment and Suspension, 2 C.F.R. Part 376, and any relevant regulations promulgated by the Department or Agency funding this project. This provision shall be included in its entirety in Respondent's subcontracts, if any, if payment in whole or in part is from federal funds.
19. **Excluded Parties.** Respondent certifies that it is not listed in the prohibited vendors list authorized by Executive Order 13224, "*Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions with Persons Who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism,*" published by the United States Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control.
20. **Foreign Terrorist Organizations.** Respondent represents and warrants that it is not engaged in business with Iran, Sudan, or a foreign terrorist organization, as prohibited by Section 2252.152 of the Texas Government Code.
21. **Executive Head of a State Agency.** In accordance with Section 669.003 of the Texas Government Code, relating to contracting with the executive head of a state agency, Respondent certifies that it is not (1) the executive head of an HHS agency, (2) a person who at any time during the four years before the date of the Contract was the executive head of an HHS agency, or (3) a person who employs a current or former executive head of an HHS agency.
22. **Human Trafficking Prohibition.** Under Section 2155.0061 of the Texas Government Code, the Respondent certifies that the individual or business entity named in this Response or Contract is not ineligible to receive the specified Contract and acknowledges that this Contract may be terminated and payment withheld if this certification is inaccurate.
23. **Franchise Tax Status.** Respondent represents and warrants that it is not currently delinquent in the payment of any franchise taxes owed the State of Texas under Chapter 171 of the Texas Tax Code.
24. **Debts and Delinquencies.** Respondent agrees that any payments due under any Contract resulting from this Solicitation shall be applied towards any debt or delinquency that is owed to the State of Texas.
25. **Lobbying Prohibition.** Respondent represents and warrants that payments to Respondent and Respondent's receipt of appropriated or other funds under any Contract resulting

from this Solicitation are not prohibited by Sections 556.005, 556.0055, or 556.008 of the Texas Government Code (relating to use of appropriated money or state funds to employ or pay lobbyists, lobbying expenses, or influence legislation).

26. [Deleted.]
27. **Disaster Recovery Plan.** Respondent agrees that upon request of HHS, Respondent shall provide copies of its most recent business continuity and disaster recovery plans.
28. [Deleted.]
29. [Deleted.]
30. [Deleted.]
31. **Restricted Employment for Certain State Personnel.** Respondent acknowledges that, pursuant to Section 572.069 of the Texas Government Code, a former state officer or employee of a state agency who during the period of state service or employment participated on behalf of a state agency in a procurement or Contract negotiation involving Respondent may not accept employment from Respondent before the second anniversary of the date the Contract is signed or the procurement is terminated or withdrawn.
32. **No Conflicts of Interest.** Respondent represents and warrants that it has no actual or potential conflicts of interest in providing the requested goods or services to System Agency under this Solicitation and any resulting Contract and that Respondent's provision of the requested goods and/or services under this Solicitation and any resulting Contract will not constitute an actual or potential conflict of interest or reasonably create an appearance of impropriety. Respondent agrees that, if after receipt of any Notice of Award, Respondent discovers or is made aware of a conflict of interest, Respondent will immediately and fully disclose such interest in writing to System Agency. In addition, Respondent will promptly and fully disclose any relationship that might be perceived or represented as a conflict after its discovery by Respondent or by System Agency as a potential conflict. System Agency reserves the right to make a final determination regarding the existence of conflicts of interest, and Respondent agrees to abide by System Agency's decision.
33. **Fraud, Waste, and Abuse.** Respondent understands that HHS does not tolerate any type of fraud, waste, or abuse. Violations of law, agency policies, or standards of ethical conduct will be investigated, and appropriate actions will be taken. Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 321.022, if the administrative head of a department or entity that is subject to audit by the state auditor has reasonable cause to believe that money received from the state by the department or entity or by a client or contractor of the department or entity may have been lost, misappropriated, or misused, or that other fraudulent or unlawful conduct has occurred in relation to the operation of the department or entity, the administrative head shall report the reason and basis for the belief to the Texas State Auditor's Office (SAO). All employees or contractors who have reasonable cause to believe that fraud, waste, or abuse has occurred (including misconduct by any HHS employee, Grantee officer, agent, employee, or subcontractor that would constitute fraud, waste, or abuse) are required to immediately report the questionable activity to the Health and Human Services Commission's Office of Inspector General. Respondent agrees to comply with all applicable laws, rules,

regulations, and System Agency policies regarding fraud, waste, and abuse including, but not limited to, HHS Circular C-027.

A report to the SAO must be made through one of the following avenues:

- SAO Toll Free Hotline: 1-800-TX-AUDIT
- SAO website: <http://sao.fraud.state.tx.us/>

All reports made to the OIG must be made through one of the following avenues:

- OIG Toll Free Hotline 1-800-436-6184
- OIG Website: ReportTexasFraud.com
- Internal Affairs Email: InternalAffairsReferral@hhsc.state.tx.us
- OIG Hotline Email: OIGFraudHotline@hhsc.state.tx.us.
- OIG Mailing Address: Office of Inspector General

Attn: Fraud Hotline

MC 1300

P.O. Box 85200

Austin, Texas 78708-5200

34. **Antitrust.** The undersigned affirms under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Texas that (a) in connection with this Response and any resulting Contract, neither I nor any representative of the Respondent has violated any provision of the Texas Free Enterprise and Antitrust Act, Tex. Bus. & Comm. Code Chapter 15; (b) in connection with this Response and any related Contract, neither I nor any representative of the Respondent has violated any federal antitrust law; and (c) neither I nor any representative of the Respondent has directly or indirectly communicated any of the contents of this Response to a competitor of the Respondent or any other company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual engaged in the same line of business as the Respondent.
35. **Federal Occupational Safety and Health Law.** Respondent represents and warrants that all articles and services shall meet or exceed the safety standards established and promulgated under the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, as amended (29 U.S.C. Chapter 15).
36. [Deleted.]
37. [Deleted.]
38. [Deleted.]
39. [Deleted.]
40. **Abortion Funding Limitation.** Respondent understands, acknowledges, and agrees that, pursuant to Article IX of the General Appropriations Act (the Act), to the extent allowed by federal and state law, money appropriated by the Texas Legislature may not be distributed to any individual or entity that, during the period for which funds are appropriated under the Act: (1) performs an abortion procedure that is not reimbursable under the state's Medicaid program; (2) is commonly owned, managed, or controlled by an entity that performs an abortion procedure that is not reimbursable under the state's Medicaid program; or (3) is a franchise or affiliate of an entity that performs an abortion procedure that is not reimbursable under the state's Medicaid program. The provision does not apply to a hospital licensed under Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code, or an

office exempt under Section 245.004(2), Health and Safety Code. Respondent represents and warrants that it is not ineligible, nor will it be ineligible during the term of the Contract resulting from this Solicitation, to receive appropriated funding pursuant to Article IX.

41. **Funding Eligibility.** Respondent understands, acknowledges, and agrees that, pursuant to Chapter 2272 (eff. Sept. 1, 2021, Ch. 2273) of the Texas Government Code, except as exempted under that Chapter, System Agency cannot Contract with an abortion provider or an affiliate of an abortion provider. Respondent certifies that it is not ineligible to Contract with System Agency under the terms of Chapter 2272 (eff. Sept. 1, 2021, Ch. 2273) of the Texas Government Code. If Respondent refuses to make that certification, Respondent shall state here any facts that make it exempt from the certification:
42. **Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment (2 CFR 200.216).** Respondent certifies that the individual or business entity named in this Response or Contract is not ineligible to receive the specified Contract or funding pursuant to 2 CFR 200.216.
43. **COVID-19 Vaccine Passports.** Pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 161.0085(c), Respondent certifies that it does not require its customers to provide any documentation certifying the customer's COVID-19 vaccination or post-transmission recovery on entry to, to gain access to, or to receive service from the Respondent's business. Respondent acknowledges that such a vaccine or recovery requirement would make Respondent ineligible for a state-funded contract.
44. **Drug-Free Workplace.** Respondent represents and warrants that it shall comply with the applicable provisions of the Drug-Free Work Place Act of 1988 (41 U.S.C. §701 et seq.) and maintain a drug-free work environment.
45. **Entities that Discriminate Against Firearm and Ammunition Industries.** In accordance with Senate Bill 19, Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., if Respondent is required to make a verification pursuant to Section 2274.002 of the Texas Government Code (relating to prohibition on contracts with companies that discriminate against firearm and ammunition industries), Respondent verifies that it (1) does not have a practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association and (2) will not discriminate during the term of the Contract against a firearm entity or firearm trade association.
46. **Security Controls for State Agency Data.** In accordance with Senate Bill 475, Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 2054.138, Respondent understands, acknowledges, and agrees that if awarded a Contract pursuant to this Solicitation and under which Respondent will be authorized to access, transmit, use, or store data for System Agency, Respondent is required to meet the security controls the System Agency determines are proportionate with System Agency's risk under the Contract based on the sensitivity of System Agency's data and that Respondent must periodically provide to System Agency evidence that Respondent meets the security controls required under the Contract.
47. **Cloud Computing State Risk and Authorization Management Program.** In accordance with Senate Bill 475, Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 2054.0593, Respondent acknowledges and agrees that, if

providing cloud computing services for System Agency, Respondent must comply with the requirements of the state risk and authorization management program and that System Agency may not enter or renew a Contract with a vendor to purchase cloud computing services for the agency that are subject to the state risk and authorization management program unless the vendor demonstrates compliance with program requirements. If providing cloud computing services for System Agency that are subject to the state risk and authorization management program, Respondent certifies it will maintain program compliance and certification throughout the term of the Contract.

- 48. Foreign-Owned Companies in Connection with Critical Infrastructure.** If Texas Government Code, Section 2274.0102(a)(1) (relating to prohibition on contracts with certain foreign-owned companies in connection with critical infrastructure) is applicable to a Contract resulting from this Solicitation, pursuant to Government Code Section 2274.0102, Respondent certifies that neither it nor its parent company, nor any affiliate of Respondent or its parent company, is: (1) majority owned or controlled by citizens or governmental entities of China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, or any other country designated by the Governor under Government Code Section 2274.0103, or (2) headquartered in any of those countries.
- 49. Critical Infrastructure Subcontracts.** For purposes of this Paragraph, the designated countries are China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and any countries lawfully designated by the Governor as a threat to critical infrastructure. Pursuant to Section 113.002 of the Business and Commerce Code, Respondent shall not enter into a subContract that will provide direct or remote access to or control of critical infrastructure, as defined by Section 113.001 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code, in this state, other than access specifically allowed for product warranty and support purposes to any subcontractor unless (i) neither the subcontractor nor its parent company, nor any affiliate of the subcontractor or its parent company, is majority owned or controlled by citizens or governmental entities of a designated country; and (ii) neither the subcontractor nor its parent company, nor any affiliate of the subcontractor or its parent company, is headquartered in a designated country. Respondent will notify the System Agency before entering into any subContract that will provide direct or remote access to or control of critical infrastructure, as defined by Section 113.001 of the Texas Business & Commerce Code, in this state.
- 50. Enforcement of Certain Federal Firearms Laws Prohibited.** In accordance with House Bill 957, Acts 2021, 87th Leg., R.S., if Texas Government Code, Section 2.101 is applicable to Respondent, Respondent certifies that it is not ineligible to receive state grant funds pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 2.103.
- 51. Prohibition on Abortions.** Respondent understands, acknowledges, and agrees that, pursuant to Article II of the General Appropriations Act, (1) no funds shall be used to pay the direct or indirect costs (including marketing, overhead, rent, phones, and utilities) of abortion procedures provided by contractors of HHSC; and (2) no funds appropriated for Medicaid Family Planning, Healthy Texas Women Program, or the Family Planning Program shall be distributed to individuals or entities that perform elective abortion procedures or that Contract with or provide funds to individuals or entities for the performance of elective abortion procedures. Respondent represents and warrants that it

is not ineligible, nor will it be ineligible during the term of the Contract resulting from this Solicitation, to receive appropriated funding pursuant to Article II.

52. **Public Information Act Copy.** Respondent understands, acknowledges, and agrees, that solicitation responses and contracts are subject to the Texas Public Information Act (PIA), Texas Government Code Chapter 552, and may be disclosed to the public upon request or through posting on the System Agency's website, the LBB's website, or as otherwise required by law.
53. **No Felony Criminal Convictions.** Respondent represents that neither Respondent nor any of its employees, agents, or representatives, including any subcontractors and employees, agents, or representative of such subcontractors, have been convicted of a felony criminal offense or that if such a conviction has occurred Respondent has fully advised System Agency in writing of the facts and circumstances surrounding the convictions.
54. **Unfair Business Practices.** Respondent represents and warrants that it has not been the subject of allegations of Deceptive Trade Practices violations under Chapter 17 of the Texas Business and Commerce Code, or allegations of any unfair business practice in any administrative hearing or court suit and that Respondent has not been found to be liable for such practices in such proceedings. Respondent certifies that it has no officers who have served as officers of other entities who have been the subject of allegations of Deceptive Trade Practices violations or allegations of any unfair business practices in an administrative hearing or court suit and that such officers have not been found to be liable for such practices in such proceedings.
55. **False Representation.** Respondent understands, acknowledges, and agrees that any false representation or any failure to comply with a representation, warranty, or certification made by Respondent is subject to all civil and criminal consequences provided at law or in equity including, but not limited to, immediate termination of any Contract resulting from this Solicitation.
56. **Permits and Licenses.** Respondent represents and warrants that it will comply with all applicable laws and maintain all permits and licenses required by applicable city, county, state, and federal rules, regulations, statutes, codes, and other laws that pertain to any Contract resulting from this Solicitation.
57. **False Statements.** Respondent represents and warrants that all statements and information prepared and submitted in this document are current, complete, true, and accurate. Submitting a Response with a false statement or material misrepresentations made during the performance of a contract is a material breach of contract and may void the submitted Response and any resulting contract.
58. **Signature Authority.** By submitting this Response, Respondent represents and warrants that the individual submitting this document and the documents made part of this Response is authorized to sign such documents on behalf of the Respondent and to bind the Respondent under any Contract that may result from the submission of this Response.