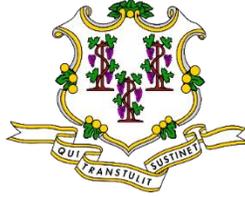


STATE OF CONNECTICUT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Request for Proposals (RFP)

**Issued by the State of Connecticut Department of Mental
Health and Addiction Services
(DMHAS)**

**Unsheltered Homeless Street Outreach and Coordination
Request for Proposals**

RFP#: DMHAS-SWS-Housing-UHSOC-RFP-2024

**RFP Release Date:
January 11, 2024**

Please note: This RFP will have multiple follow-up emails and addendums. Please check your junk email and spam folders to ensure you are receiving all relevant correspondence.

The Request for Proposal is available in electronic format on the State Contracting Portal by filtering by Organization for The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

<https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/BidBoard>

Agency's Official Contact:

Name: **Christine Goracy**

Address: 410 Capitol Avenue

P.O. Box 341431

Hartford, CT 06134

Phone: (860) 418-6922

E-Mail: DMHAS.FiscalContracts@ct.gov

The RFP is also available on the Department's website at <http://www.ct.gov/dmhas/site/default.asp>

RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER

THAN:

DATE: March 7, 2024 by 3:00pm

A MANDATORY VIRTUAL BIDDERS' CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD

February 8, 2024 from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

DMHAS is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

The Agency reserves the right to reject any and all submissions or cancel this procurement at any time if deemed in the best interest of the State of Connecticut (State).

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. INTRODUCTION

- 1. RFP Name and Number. Unsheltered Homeless Street Outreach and Coordination Request for Proposal (RFP) RFP#: DMHAS-SWS-HOUSING-USHOC-RFP-2024.** The number will be used on each page of the main proposal and cover sheet of proposals submitted in response to this RFP.
- 2. RFP Summary.** This RFP is to streamline and enhance DMHAS outreach and engagement programs to ensure there are collaborative street canvassing teams focusing on people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in each region and corresponding Coordinated Access network. The goal is to work with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to gain income, benefits and permanent, sustainable housing.
- 3. RFP Purpose.** The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is issuing this RFP to develop homeless outreach teams which will work in collaboration with the Coordinated Access Networks (CAN) in Connecticut. Resources made available through this RFP are limited to annual state funds.

For this RFP, DMHAS is requesting the submission of Proposals from eligible organizations interested in providing street outreach services to people with serious mental illness; or with serious mental illness and substance use disorders; and are experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

The intent of this RFP is to develop coordinated street canvassing teams that will conduct outreach and engagement to persons residing out of doors and in places not meant for human habitation to assist them in locating short-term, long-term and/or permanent housing and connect them to needed resources and services, such as mental health and/or substance use treatment, medical and/or dental care.

- 4. Coordinated Access Network** - A collaboration of service providers working together through various monthly meetings to streamline and standardize the process for Consumers to access assistance. There are seven (7) CAN regions in CT. CAN Map – link <https://cceh.org/work/coordinated-access/>
- 5. Commodity Codes.** The services that the Agency wishes to procure through this RFP are as follows:
 - 85000000: Healthcare Services
 - 93000000: Politics and Civic Affairs Services
 - 93140000: Community and Social Services

B. INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Official Contact.** The Agency has designated the individual below as the Official Contact for purposes of this RFP. The Official Contact is the **only authorized contact** for this procurement and, as such, handles all related communications on behalf of the Agency. Proposers, prospective proposers, and other interested parties are advised that any communication with any other Agency employee(s) (including appointed officials) or personnel under contract to the Agency about this RFP is

strictly prohibited. Proposers or prospective proposers who violate this instruction may risk disqualification from further consideration.

Name: **Christine Goracy**
 Address: 410 Capitol Avenue
 P. O. Box 341431
 Hartford, CT 06134
 Phone: (860) 418-6922
 E-Mail: DMHAS.FiscalContracts@ct.gov

Please ensure that e-mail screening software (if used) recognizes and accepts e-mails from the Official Contact.

- 2) Registering with State Contracting Portal.** Respondents must register with the State of CT contracting portal at <https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/Registration> if not already registered.

Respondents must submit the following information pertaining to this RFP with your proposal:

- Secretary of State recognition – [onlineBusinessSearch \(ct.gov\)](https://portal.ct.gov/onlineBusinessSearch)
- Non-profit status, if applicable
- Notification to Bidders, Parts I-V <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/CHRO/NotificationtoBidderspdf.pdf>
- Campaign Contribution Certification (OPM Ethics Form 1): <https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/Fin-PSA/Forms/Ethics-Forms>

- 3. RFP Information.** The RFP, addendums to the RFP, and other information associated with this procurement are available in electronic format from the Official Contact or from the Internet at the following locations:

- Agency's RFP Web Page
<https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/RFPs/Index/RFPs-and-RFQs>
- State Contracting Portal (go to CTsource bid board, filter by DMHAS
<https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/BidBoard>)

It is strongly recommended that any proposer or prospective proposer interested in this procurement check the Bid Board for any solicitation changes. Interested proposers may receive additional e-mails from CTsource announcing addendums that are posted on the portal. This service is provided as a courtesy to assist in monitoring activities associated with State procurements, including this RFP.

- 4. Procurement Schedule.** See below. Dates after the due date for proposals ("Proposals Due") are non-binding target dates only (*). The Agency may amend the schedule as needed. Any change to non-target dates will be made by means of an amendment to this RFP and will be posted on the State Contracting Portal and, if available, the Agency's RFP Web Page.

RFP Released	January 11, 2024
Required Letter of Intent Due	January 25, 2024
RFP/Bidder's Conference	February 8, 2024, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Deadline for Questions	February 15, 2024
Answers Released	February 22, 2024
Proposals Due	March 7, 2024
(*) Proposer Selection	TBD
(*) Start of Contract Negotiations	TBD
(*) Start of Contract	July 1, 2024

- 5. Contract Awards.** The award of any contract pursuant to this RFP is dependent upon the availability of funding to the Agency. The Agency anticipates the following:

Total Funding Available	\$3,256,148
Number of Awards	Up to 15 awards statewide, with at least one (1) award per CAN and corresponding DMHAS region.
Contract Cost:	To Be Determined (TBD) by the Department
Contract Term:	3-year term The Department has the right to extend this contract based on funding availability.
Funding Source:	State and Federal Block Grant funding

- 6. Eligibility.** Private provider organizations (defined as non-state entities that are either nonprofit or proprietary corporations or partnerships) and municipalities are eligible to submit proposals in response to this RFP. Individuals who are not a duly formed business entity are ineligible to participate in this procurement.

- 7. Minimum Qualifications of Proposers.** To qualify for your proposal to be reviewed, a proposer must have the following minimum qualifications:

Must have a minimum of three (3) years of demonstrated experience with:

- Providing or coordinating street canvassing and outreach to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness with serious mental illness; or with serious mental illness and a substance use disorder; and
- Collaborating with the CAN and use of the Housing By Name List to prioritize for housing as documented in a Letter of Support from the CAN; and
- Collaborating with the State Operated and/or Private Non-Profit Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHA) in your respective DMHAS region including housing coordination, mental health and/or substance use services.

- 8. An Electronic Required Letter of Intent.** An Electronic Letter of Intent (LOI) is required by this RFP. **The LOI is non-binding** and does not obligate the sender to submit a proposal. The LOI must be submitted to the Official Contact by e-mail by the deadline established in the Procurement Schedule. The LOI must clearly identify the sender, including name, postal address, telephone number, and e-mail address. It is the sender's responsibility to confirm the Agency's receipt of the LOI. Failure to submit the required LOI in accordance with the requirements set forth herein shall result in disqualification from further consideration.

9. Inquiry Procedures. All questions regarding this RFP or the Agency's procurement process must be directed, in writing, electronically, (e-mail) to the Official Contact before the deadline specified in the Procurement Schedule. The early submission of questions is encouraged. Questions will not be accepted or answered verbally – neither in person nor over the telephone. All questions received before the deadline(s) will be answered. However, the Agency will not answer questions when the source is unknown (i.e., nuisance or anonymous questions). Questions deemed unrelated to the RFP or the procurement process will not be answered. At its discretion, the Agency may or may not respond to questions received after the deadline. If this RFP requires an LOI, the Agency reserves the right to answer questions only from those who have submitted such a letter. The Agency may combine similar questions and give only one answer. All questions and answers will be compiled into a written amendment to this RFP. If any answer to any question constitutes a material change to the RFP, the question and answer will be placed at the beginning of the addendum and duly noted as such.

The agency will release the answers to questions on the date(s) established in the Procurement Schedule. The Agency will publish any and all addendums to this RFP on the State Contracting Portal and, if available, on the Agency's RFP Web Page.

At its discretion, the Agency may distribute any addendums to this RFP to prospective proposers who submitted an LOI or attended the RFP Conference.

10. RFP Conference. Virtual RFP Bidder's Conference will be held on February 8, 2024, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. **Invitations will be forwarded to prospective proposers who sent in the required LOI.**

Prospective proposers will be provided an opportunity to submit questions via email to DMHAS.FiscalContracts@ct.gov. All questions submitted will be answered in a written addendum to this RFP, which will serve as the Department's official response. If any answer to any question constitutes a material change to the RFP, the question and answer will be placed at the beginning of the addendum and duly noted as such. The agency will release the addendum on the date established in the Procurement Schedule. The Department will publish any and all addendums.

11. Electronic Proposal due Date and Time. The Official Contact is the **only authorized recipient** of proposals submitted in response to this RFP. Proposals must be **received** by the Official Contact on or before the due date and time:

- **Due Date: March 7, 2024**
- **Time: 3:00PM**

Proposals received after the due date and time will be ineligible and will not be evaluated. The Agency will send an official letter alerting late respondents of ineligibility.

An acceptable submission must include the following:

- One (1) conforming electronic copy of the original proposal.

The proposal must be complete, properly formatted and outlined, and ready for evaluation by the Screening Committee.

The electronic copy of the proposal must be emailed to the Official Agency Contact for this procurement. The subject line of the email must read: **RFP#DMHAS-SWS-HOUSING-RFP-2024**. Required forms and appendices may be scanned and submitted as PDFs at the end of the main proposal document. Please ensure the entire email submission is less than 25MB as this reflects The Agency's server limitations. Respondents should work to ensure there are not additional Information Technology (IT) limitations from the provider side.

- 12. Multiple Proposals.** The submission of multiple proposals is an option for this procurement with a limit of one per CAN. Minimum qualifications must be met for each proposal and the geographic area covered. Each CAN requires a separate proposal.

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II. PURPOSE OF RFP AND SCOPE OF SERVICES

A. AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) promotes and administers comprehensive, recovery-oriented services in the areas of mental health treatment and substance use treatment throughout Connecticut.

While the Department's services serve all Connecticut citizens, its mandate is to serve adults (over 18 years of age) with psychiatric or substance use disorders, or both, who lack the financial means to obtain such services on their own. DMHAS also provides collaborative programs for individuals (including those who identify as being part of a family) with special needs, such as persons with HIV/AIDS infection, people in the criminal justice system, those with problem gambling disorders, pregnant and parenting women with substance use disorders, persons with traumatic brain injury or hearing impairment, those with co-occurring substance use and mental illness, and special populations transitioning out of the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

DMHAS operates on the belief that people with mental illnesses and/or substance use disorders can and should be treated in community settings, and that inpatient treatment should be used only when absolutely necessary to meet the best interests of the individual. Effective care requires that services such as residential, supportive, rehabilitative and crisis intervention programs are available within their local communities. DMHAS is responsible for providing a wide range of services to adults in each of the five human service Regions in Connecticut.

Department Mission

"To promote the overall health and wellness of persons with behavioral health needs through integrated network of holistic, comprehensive, effective, and efficient services and supports that foster dignity, respect, and self-sufficiency in those we serve."

B. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- A.** The State of Connecticut DMHAS is requesting proposals from private provider organizations (defined as non-state entities that are either nonprofit or proprietary corporations or partnerships) and municipalities to develop and implement an Unsheltered Homeless Street Outreach program. The proposed program shall provide street outreach services to persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness and are living outdoors and in places not meant for human habitation and are age eighteen (18) years of age and older. These services shall assist in providing each individual and family access to permanent safe housing in addition to necessary mental health, substance use, clinical, healthcare, social, education, rehabilitative, vocational and/or other services essential to achieving optimal quality of life and community living. Services and supports shall be voluntary and available to individuals at the level of intensity needed and for as long as required. The proposed program will enter data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) which automatically prioritizes consumers for housing resources.

A responsive proposal shall thoroughly describe the proposed program:

1. Eligible Activities: proposed programs shall include one or both of the following services:
 - ❖ Unsheltered Homeless Street outreach staff that will canvass all towns in the proposed DMHAS region's corresponding CAN(s).
 - ❖ Coordination of various street outreach activities across the DMHAS region's CAN (including Street Outreach, Homeless to Housing Program (H2H), Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (SNOFO) outreach.

C. SCOPE OF SERVICE DESCRIPTION

15 pages main proposal includes sections 1 – 4 below.

1. Organizational Expectations

- a. Provide a general overview of your organization including its history and prior experience providing street outreach services and engaging key stakeholders. Describe why your organization is uniquely qualified to take on this scope of work. If you intend to use subcontractors, describe why you selected the subcontractors you did and list them. Details regarding the related experience and knowledge of the subcontractors and community partners must be included in the proposal.
- b. Describe your experience managing service programs that operate outside of business days/hours. Provide examples of any existing programs that are operational during second and third shift and on weekends.

2. Service Expectations

Proposals must include a comprehensive plan to implement the following:

- a. Identify the DMHAS Region and corresponding CAN to be covered in this proposal.
- b. Describe your existing relationship with the State Operated LMHA. Include names of programs and point persons you are currently working with at the State Operated LMHA and a description of your collaborative involvement to date.
- c. Describe your existing relationship with the CAN in which you are proposing to provide services as it pertains to the letter of support you received.
- d. Describe your plan to enhance any existing relationship(s) with the State Operated and Private Non-Profit LMHA(s) in your CAN.
- e. Identify which eligible activities you will include in this proposal and how you will carry out those activities including a program startup timeline.
- f. Include a proposed program workflow that will show how your agency will execute the following activities:
 1. Proposed canvassing schedule including non-traditional hours (e.g. 2nd & 3rd shift, weekends);
 2. Coordinated referral process and how you will ensure that those experiencing unsheltered homelessness will move into permanent housing as part of your service delivery model;
 3. Completion of Homeless Verification Forms;
 4. Completion of Disabling Condition Verification Forms;

5. Development of a Housing Services and Sustainability Plan for each consumer;
- g. Describe the integration of the Housing First model in your program design.
- h. Describe how your organization includes persons with lived experience including, homelessness, substance use, serious mental illness and/or other behavioral health disorders in the programs and management structure.
- i. Describe how your organization will connect consumers to income through employment or Social Security benefits.
- j. Describe your organization's experience in providing services that encompass Harm Reduction.
- k. Describe your organization's experience working with individuals with Opioid Use Disorders and connecting them to programming providing Medications for Opioid Use Disorders.
- l. Describe your organizations experience in providing person-centered services.
- m. Describe your organizations proposed program implementation plan and timeline, including use of the CT Outreach standards for training and implementation. [Connecticut Statewide Street Outreach Guidelines \(ctbos.org\)](https://www.ctbos.org/Connecticut-Statewide-Street-Outreach-Guidelines)

3. Staffing Expectations

Describe the team that would work on this program.

- a. Key Personnel: Provide the names or titles of proposed personnel and the hours and percentages of time dedicated to this project. Nontraditional work hours and days should be a part of the proposed staffing plan.
- b. Describe your plan to recruit and hire people with lived experience, including lived experience of homelessness, substance use and/or mental health disorders to be a member of your team.
- c. Describe your management and supervision plan for your service staff.

4. Data and Technology Expectations

- a. Proposers must demonstrate sufficient on-site capacity to collect and manage Department-required data.
- b. Proposers and the proposed program must have the capability to access the internet, send/receive outside email and to maintain electronic health records on-site.
- c. Program service site will have processes in place that utilize data to monitor and inform program management and improvement. Proposers will have sufficient capacity to collect and manage DMHAS required data regarding admission, discharge, and services.
- d. Describe your organization's capacity to collect and enter consumer level data for all program participants and create enrollments using Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or your ability to implement such data collection within one month of award.
- e. Describe your organization's ability to ensure staff have access to adequate technology infrastructure necessary for supporting field documentation and virtual connection or service provision
- f. Describe your ability to collect and enter consumer level data in DMHAS Data Performance System (DDaP). If not currently a DMHAS funded agency, describe your plan to access DDaP and all relevant DDaP trainings and how you will comply with all DDaP requirements.

5. Financial Expectations – not counted in 15 pages – this should be in attachments

- a. **Financial Status Reports:** If the three (3) most recent audits are available via the Office of Policy and Management’s (OPM) Electronic Audit Reporting System (EARS) system, such may be noted in the proposal, and a hardcopy of the audit cover letters need not be provided.
- b. **Audited Financial Statements:** Any proposer agency that does not hold a current contract with the Department, must submit cover letters from their auditor for the last three (3) annual audits of their agency and a copy of their most recent financial audit, included in the proposal. If less than three (3) audits were conducted, detail must be provided as to why, and any supporting documentation assuring the financial efficacy of the applicant agency should be included (i.e. an accountant prepared financial statement, a tax return, etc.).
- c. **Financial Capacity:** Describe the organization’s financial capacity to properly isolate income and expenditures related to the services provided in connection with this RFP. Discuss the internal controls used to ensure the safeguarding of funds to ensure that a thorough record of expenditures can be provided for purposes of an audit.
- d. **Leveraged Funds:** Describe the proposer’s long-term strategy to sustain funding for the program and explain how funds provided for performing services in connection with this RFP may be used to leverage other funding.
- e. **Mixed Funding:** If proposer is utilizing staff who will be paid from one or more sources other than DMHAS in connection with this RFP, proposer must document how staff time for this program will be tracked.

6. Budget Expectations not counted in 15 pages – this should be in attachments.

For the development of your program, staffing structure and budget, please utilize the salary of \$100,000 per FTE which will include salary and benefits only. The Department expects the salaries will be a competitive living wage with the remaining portion of the \$100,000 covering benefits per each FTE.

- a. **Budget: A responsive proposal shall include** a line-item budget for each of the three years that depicts the allowable costs associated with the program, staffing Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and % along with job title, utilizing the budget form embedded in appendix section. All pages should be submitted and, as they are forms, are not included in the page limit. Proposals will be competitively scored on financial feasibility.
- b. **Budget Narrative: A responsive proposal shall detail** how costs included in the line-item budget were calculated. Either Microsoft Office Word or Excel format is acceptable. Allowable costs are those associated with the above-described eligible activities.

D. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The following performance metrics highlight key priorities that will be analyzed with providers collaboratively during the life of the contract. This is not an exhaustive list, but rather an indication of significant performance metrics of interest to DMHAS. DMHAS looks forward to working with providers to define additional important performance metrics.

1. Unsheltered Street Outreach Outcomes:

Measure 1: At least 90% of enrolled Consumers have had at least one service during the last six months of the annual reporting period.

Measure 2: At least 85% of Consumers will remain in the program or discharge to permanent housing during the annual reporting period.

Measure 3: At least 30% of Consumers will increase income of any kind (including earned and unearned income) during the annual reporting period.

Measure 4: At least 85% of newly housed consumers get or be referred to supportive services to sustain their permanent, safe housing.

E. CONTRACT MANAGEMENT/DATA REPORTING

As part of the State's commitment to becoming more outcomes-oriented, DMHAS, seeks to actively and regularly collaborate with providers to enhance contract management, improve results, and adjust service delivery and policy based on learning what works. Reliable and relevant data is necessary to ensure compliance, inform trends to be monitored, evaluate results and performance, and drive service improvements. As such, DMHAS reserves the right to request/collect other key data and metrics from providers.

- 1. Program Monitoring:** DMHAS Housing and Homeless Services Unit will convene mandatory quarterly meetings with the selected providers.
- 2. Outcome Results:** Will be monitored by the Department through data reported to the Department's information systems, in documentation review, staff and client focus groups, and observations through outreach shadowing during monitoring site visits, through required monthly and/or annual service reports, as required by the Department or through a combination of monitoring site visits and reports.

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III. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION OVERVIEW

A. SUBMISSION FORMAT INFORMATION

1. Required Outline. All proposals must follow the required outline presented in Section IV below – *Proposal Submission Outline and Requirements*. Proposals that fail to follow the required outline will be deemed non-responsive and not evaluated.

2. Cover Sheet. The Cover Sheet is Page 1 of the proposal. Proposers must complete and use the Cover Sheet form provided by DMHAS in the VI. Appendix D-Cover Sheet below.

Legal Name is defined as the name of private provider organization, CT State agency, or municipality submitting the proposal. **Contact Person** is defined as the individual who can provide additional information about the proposal or who has immediate responsibility for the proposal. **Authorized Official** is defined as the individual empowered to submit a binding offer on behalf of the proposer to provide services in accordance with the terms and provisions described in this RFP and any addendums or attachments hereto.

3. Table of Contents. All proposals must include a Table of Contents that conforms with the required proposal outline.

4. Executive Summary. Proposals must include a high-level summary, not exceeding two (2) pages. The summary must also include the organization's eligibility and qualifications to respond to this RFP. The executive summary is not part of the main proposal and cost proposal.

5. Attachments. Attachments other than the required appendices or forms identified in the RFP are not permitted and will not be evaluated. Further, the required appendices or forms must not be altered or used to extend, enhance, or replace any component required by this RFP. Failure to abide by these instructions will result in disqualification. All attachments should be included in VI. Appendix.

6. Style Requirements. This is an electronic submission.

Submitted proposals must conform to the following specifications:

- Paper Size: 8 ½ x 11 (letter)
- Font Size: 12
- Font Type: Times New Roman
- Margins: Normal (1 inch)
- Line Spacing: 1 ½
- Print Style: Singled-Sided
- Page Limit: Maximum **15 pages**, exclusive of Executive Summary, Appendices and Budget and Budget Narrative

7. Pagination. The proposer's name must be displayed in the header of each page. All pages, including the required appendices and forms, must be numbered in the footer.

8. Packaging and Labeling Requirements. Not Applicable

9. Declaration of Confidential Information. Proposers are advised that all materials associated with this procurement are subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Privacy Act, and all rules, regulations and interpretations resulting from them. If a proposer deems that certain information required by this RFP is confidential, the proposer must label such information as CONFIDENTIAL prior to submission. In subsection IV.F. of the proposal submission, the proposer must reference where the information labeled CONFIDENTIAL is located in the proposal. *EXAMPLE: Section G.1.a.* For each subsection so referenced, the proposer must provide a convincing explanation and rationale sufficient to justify an exemption of the information from release under the FOIA. The explanation and rationale must be stated in terms of (a) the prospective harm to the competitive position of the proposer that would result if the identified information were to be released and (b) the reasons why the information is legally exempt from release pursuant to C.G.S. § 1-210(b).

10. Conflict of Interest - Disclosure Statement. Proposers must include a disclosure statement concerning any current business relationships (within the last three (3) years) that pose a conflict of interest, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-85. A conflict of interest exists when a relationship exists between the proposer and a public official (including an elected official) or State employee that may interfere with fair competition or may be adverse to the interests of the State. The existence of a conflict of interest is not, in and of itself, evidence of wrongdoing. A conflict of interest may, however, become a legal matter if a proposer tries to influence, or succeeds in influencing, the outcome of an official decision for their personal or corporate benefit. The Agency will determine whether any disclosed conflict of interest poses a substantial advantage to the proposer over the competition, decreases the overall competitiveness of this procurement, or is not in the best interests of the State. In the absence of any conflict of interest, a proposer must affirm such in the disclosure statement. *Example: "[name of proposer] has no current business relationship (within the last three (3) years) that poses a conflict of interest, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-85."*

B. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

1. Evaluation Process. It is the intent of the Agency to conduct a comprehensive, fair, and impartial evaluation of proposals received in response to this RFP. When evaluating proposals, negotiating with successful proposers, and awarding contracts, the Agency will conform with its written procedures for POS and PSA procurements (pursuant to C.G.S. § 4-217) and the State's Code of Ethics (pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 1-84 and 1-85). Final funding allocation decisions will be determined during contract negotiation.

2. Evaluation Review Committee. The Agency will designate a Review Committee to evaluate proposals submitted in response to this RFP. The Review Committee will be composed of individuals, Agency staff or other designees as deemed appropriate. The contents of all submitted proposals, including any confidential information, will be shared with the Review Committee. Only proposals found to be responsive (that is, complying with all instructions and requirements described herein) will be reviewed, rated, and scored. Proposals that fail to comply with all instructions will be rejected without further consideration. The Review Committee shall evaluate all proposals that meet the Minimum Submission Requirements by score and rank order and make

recommendations for awards. The DMHAS Head will make the final selection. Attempts by any proposer (or representative of any proposer) to contact or influence any member of the Review Committee may result in disqualification of the proposer.

- 3. Minimum Submission Requirements.** To be eligible for evaluation, proposals must (1) be received on or before the due date and time; (2) meet the Proposal Format requirements; (3) meet the Eligibility and Qualification requirements to respond to the procurement, (4) follow the required Proposal Outline; and (5) be complete. Proposals that fail to follow instructions or satisfy these minimum submission requirements will not be reviewed further. DMHAS will reject any proposal that deviates significantly from the requirements of this RFP.
- 4. Evaluation Criteria (and Weights).** Proposals meeting the Minimum Submission Requirements will be evaluated according to the established criteria. The criteria are the objective standards that the Review Committee will use to evaluate the technical merits of the proposals. Only the criteria listed below will be used to evaluate proposals. The weights are disclosed below:

Criteria	Points
Organizational Expectations	10
Scope of Services – Service expectations	40
Staffing Expectations	25
Data and Technology Expectations	10
Financial Requirements - Budget/Narrative	15
Total	100

Criteria	Total Points	What would a top score look like?
Organizational Expectations	10	Would include but not limited to experience working with State Operated and Private Non-profit LMHA, the CAN, working with homeless delivery system, collaboration with mental health and substance use and healthcare service agencies, and relevant service delivery during non-business hours (early mornings, evenings, weekends) (This will include sub-contractors, if applicable).
Scope of Services – Service expectations	40	<p>Would include but not limited to a comprehensive plan to implement a canvassing schedule, that will include all towns in relevant DMHAS region and CAN, will include nontraditional days and hours and coordinated referral process and how you will ensure that those experiencing unsheltered homelessness will move into permanent housing as part of your service delivery model.</p> <p>Would include use of the Person-Centered services, Harm reduction strategies and the Housing First model in the program design.</p>

		<p>Would describe a program implementation plan and timeline, including use of the CT Outreach standards for training and implementation.</p> <p>Would include collaborations to ensure completion of homeless verification forms and disabling condition verification forms.</p> <p>Would include how your organization includes persons with lived experience including, homelessness, substance use, serious mental illness and/or other behavioral health disorders in the programs and management structure.</p> <p>Will include plans for regional coordination of outreach services across a variety of different outreach programs.</p> <p>(This will include sub-contractors, if applicable).</p>
Staffing Expectations	25	<p>Would include but not limited to supervision plan, staff titles, percent of time dedicated to this program, expected capacity, job descriptions and salaries. If sub-contractors are being used, provide a description of their specific role, including but not limited to staff titles, percent of time dedicated to this program, expected capacity, job descriptions. (This will include sub-contractors, if applicable).</p>
Data and Technology Expectations	10	<p>Would include but not limited to process to use HMIS and DDaP, technology to complete any required reports, use of reliable and relevant necessary data to ensure compliance and adequate technology infrastructure necessary for supporting field documentation and virtual connections. (This will include sub-contractors, if applicable).</p>
Financial Requirements - Budget/Narrative	15	<p>The budget narrative will give detail on salary and benefit package to ensure competitive living wage is offered for each FTE.</p> <p>Would include but not limited to 3 years of satisfactory financial audits, allowable costs associated with the program, staffing Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and % along with job title, utilizing the budget form in the appendices. All pages should be submitted and, as they are forms, are not included in the page limit. Proposals will be competitively scored on financial feasibility.</p> <p>Allowable costs are those associated with the above described eligible activities. (This will include sub-contractors, if applicable)</p>
Total	100	

As part of its evaluation of the Staffing Plan, the Review Committee will review the proposer's demonstrated commitment to affirmative action, as required by the Regulations of CT State Agencies § 46A-68j-30(10).

- 5. Proposer Selection.** Upon completing its evaluation of proposals, the Review Committee will submit the rankings of all proposals to the Commissioner or DMHAS Agency Head. The final selection of a successful proposer is at the discretion of the Commissioner or Agency Head. Any proposer selected will be so notified and awarded an opportunity to negotiate a contract with DMHAS. Such negotiations may, but will not automatically, result in a contract. Any resulting contract will be posted on the State Contracting Portal. All unsuccessful proposers will be notified by e-mail or U.S. mail, at DMHAS' discretion, about the outcome of the evaluation and proposer selection process. DMHAS reserves the right to decline to award contracts for activities in which the Commissioner or DMHAS Agency Head considers there are not adequate respondents.
- 6. Debriefing.** Within ten (10) days of receiving notification from DMHAS, unsuccessful proposers may contact the Official Contact and request information about the evaluation and proposer selection process. The e-mail sent date or the postmark date on the notification envelope will be considered "day one" of the ten (10) days. If unsuccessful proposers still have questions after receiving this information, they may contact the Official Contact and request a meeting with the DMHAS to discuss the evaluation process and their proposals. If held, the debriefing meeting will not include any comparisons of unsuccessful proposals with other proposals. The Agency may schedule and hold the debriefing meeting within fifteen (15) days of the request. DMHAS will not change, alter, or modify the outcome of the evaluation or selection process as a result of any debriefing meeting.
- 7. Appeal Process.** Proposers may appeal any aspect of the DMHAS' competitive procurement, including the evaluation and proposer selection process. Any such appeal must be submitted to the DMHAS Agency head. A proposer may file an appeal at any time after the proposal due date, but not later than thirty (30) days after an agency notifies unsuccessful proposers about the outcome of the evaluation and proposer selection process. The e-mail sent date or the postmark date on the notification envelope will be considered "day one" of the thirty (30) days. The filing of an appeal shall not be deemed sufficient reason for DMHAS to delay, suspend, cancel, or terminate the procurement process or execution of a contract. More detailed information about filing an appeal may be obtained from the Official Contact.
- 8. Contract Execution.** Any contract developed and executed as a result of this RFP is subject to DMHAS' contracting procedures, which may include approval by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). Fully executed and approved contracts will be posted on State Contracting Portal and the DMHAS website.

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IV. REQUIRED PROPOSAL SUBMISSION OUTLINE AND REQUIREMENTS

- A. Cover Sheet**
- B. Table of Contents**
- C. Executive Summary**
- D. Main Proposal**
- E. Attachments**
- F. Declaration of Confidential Information**
- G. Conflict of Interest - Disclosure Statement**
- H. Statement of Assurances**

A-H are defined more specifically below. The listing above is just to provide an initial outline for proposers.

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A: Cover Sheet

The Respondent must use a Cover Sheet provided.

Legal Name is defined as the name of private provider organization, CT State agency, or municipality submitting the proposal. **Contact Person** is defined as the individual who can provide additional information about the proposal or who has immediate responsibility for the proposal. **Authorized Official** is defined as the individual empowered to submit a binding offer on behalf of the proposer to provide services in accordance with the terms and provisions described in this RFP and any amendments or attachments hereto.

B: Table of Contents

Respondents must include a Table of Contents that lists sections and subsections with page numbers that follow the organization outline and sequence for this proposal.

C: Proposer Executive Summary

The page limitation for this section is two (2) pages briefly describing how the Respondent meets the eligibility and qualification criteria outlined in the Proposal Overview and a brief overview of why the Respondent should be selected for the activities highlighted in the scope of services.

D: Main Proposal Submission/Questions

*****Please note the maximum total page length for this section is 15** (all appendices and other attachments should be referred in section D and then placed in section E.

1. Organizational Requirements
2. Service Requirements/Scope of Services
3. Staffing Requirements
4. Data and Technology Requirements
5. Financial Requirements-Budget and Budget Narrative
6. Appendices

E: Attachments

Attachments other than the required attachments identified are not permitted and will not be evaluated. See the Proposal Checklist in Appendix I. pages 37 and 38 for a list of relevant attachments. Further, the required attachments must not be altered or used to extend, enhance, or replace any component required by this RFP. Failure to abide by these instructions may result in disqualification.

F: Declaration of Confidential Information

If a proposer deems that certain information required by this RFP is confidential, the proposer must label such information as CONFIDENTIAL prior to submission. The proposer must reference where the information labeled CONFIDENTIAL is located in the proposal. *EXAMPLE: Section G.1.a.* For each subsection so referenced, the proposer must provide a convincing explanation and rationale sufficient to justify an exemption of the information from release under the FOIA. The explanation and rationale must be stated in terms of (a)

the prospective harm to the competitive position of the proposer that would result if the identified information were to be released and (b) the reasons why the information is legally exempt from release pursuant to C.G.S. § 1-210(b).

G: Conflict of Interest – Disclosure Statement

Proposers must include a disclosure statement concerning any current business relationships (within the last three (3) years) that pose a conflict of interest, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-85. A conflict of interest exists when a relationship exists between the proposer and a public official (including an elected official) or State employee that may interfere with fair competition or may be adverse to the interests of the State. The existence of a conflict of interest is not, in and of itself, evidence of wrongdoing. A conflict of interest may, however, become a legal matter if a proposer tries to influence, or succeeds in influencing, the outcome of an official decision for their personal or corporate benefit. In the absence of any conflict of interest, a proposer must affirm such in the disclosure statement. *Example: "[name of proposer] has no current business relationship (within the last three (3) years) that poses a conflict of interest, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-85."*

H: Statement of Assurances

Place after Conflict of Interest-Disclosure Statement. Sign and return.

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V. MANDATORY PROVISIONS

A. POS STANDARD CONTRACT, PARTS I AND II

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, the proposer implicitly agrees to comply with the provisions of Parts I and II of the State's "standard contract" for POS:

Part I of the standard contract is maintained by the Department and will include the scope of services, contract performance, quality assurance, reports, terms of payment, budget, and other program-specific provisions of any resulting POS contract. A sample of Part I is available from the Department's Official Contact upon request.

Part II of the standard contract is maintained by OPM and includes the mandatory terms and conditions of the POS contract. Part II is available on OPM's website at: http://www.ct.gov/opm/fin/standard_contract

Note:

Included in Part II of the standard contract is the State Elections Enforcement Commission's notice (pursuant to C.G.S. § 9-612(g)(2)) advising executive branch State contractors and prospective State contractors of the ban on campaign contributions and solicitations. If a proposer is awarded an opportunity to negotiate a contract with the Department and the resulting contract has an anticipated value in a calendar year of \$50,000 or more, or a combination or series of such agreements or contracts has an anticipated value of \$100,000 or more, the proposer must inform the proposer's principals of the contents of the SEEC notice.

Part I of the standard contract may be amended by means of a written instrument signed by the Department, the selected proposer (contractor), and, if required, the Attorney General's Office. Part II of the standard contract may be amended only in consultation with, and with the approval of, the Office of Policy and Management and the Attorney General's Office.

B. ASSURANCES

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, a proposer implicitly gives the following assurances:

- 1. Collusion.** The proposer represents and warrants that the proposer did not participate in any part of the RFP development process and had no knowledge of the specific contents of the RFP prior to its issuance. The proposer further represents and warrants that no agent, representative, or employee of the State participated directly in the preparation of the proposer's proposal. The proposer also represents and warrants that the submitted proposal is in all respects fair and is made without collusion or fraud.
- 2. State Officials and Employees.** The proposer certifies that no elected or appointed official or employee of the State has or will benefit financially or materially from any contract resulting from this RFP. The Agency may terminate a resulting contract if it is determined that gratuities of any kind were either offered or received by any of the aforementioned officials or employees from the proposer, contractor, or its agents or employees.

- 3. Competitors.** The proposer assures that the submitted proposal is not made in connection with any competing organization or competitor submitting a separate proposal in response to this RFP. No attempt has been made, or will be made, by the proposer to induce any other organization or competitor to submit, or not submit, a proposal for the purpose of restricting competition. The proposer further assures that the proposed costs have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement with any other organization or competitor for the purpose of restricting competition. Nor has the proposer knowingly disclosed the proposed costs on a prior basis, either directly or indirectly, to any other organization or competitor.
- 4. Validity of Proposal.** The proposer certifies that the proposal represents a valid and binding offer to provide services in accordance with the terms and provisions described in this RFP and any amendments or attachments hereto. The proposal shall remain valid for a period of 180 days after the submission due date and may be extended beyond that time by mutual agreement. At its sole discretion, the Agency may include the proposal, by reference or otherwise, into any contract with the successful proposer.
- 5. Press Releases.** The proposer agrees to obtain prior written consent and approval of the Agency for press releases that relate in any manner to this RFP or any resultant contract.

C. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, a proposer implicitly agrees to comply with the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action.** The State is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate in its hiring, employment, or business practices. The State is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services, or activities.
- 2. Preparation Expenses.** Neither the State nor the Agency shall assume any liability for expenses incurred by a proposer in preparing, submitting, or clarifying any proposal submitted in response to this RFP.
- 3. Exclusion of Taxes.** The Agency is exempt from the payment of excise and sales taxes imposed by the federal government and the State. Proposers are liable for any other applicable taxes.
- 4. Proposed Costs.** No cost submissions that are contingent upon a State action will be accepted. All proposed costs must be fixed through the entire term of the contract.
- 5. Changes to Proposal.** No additions or changes to the original proposal will be allowed after submission. While changes are not permitted, the Agency may request and authorize proposers to submit written clarification of their proposals, in a manner or format prescribed by the Agency, and at the proposer's expense.

- 6. Supplemental Information.** Supplemental information will not be considered after the deadline submission of proposals, unless specifically requested by the Agency. The Agency may ask a proposer to give demonstrations, interviews, oral presentations or further explanations to clarify information contained in a proposal. Any such demonstration, interview, or oral presentation will be at a time selected and in a place provided by the Agency. At its sole discretion, the Agency may limit the number of proposers invited to make such a demonstration, interview, or oral presentation and may limit the number of attendees per proposer.
- 7. Presentation of Supporting Evidence.** If requested by the Agency, a proposer must be prepared to present evidence of experience, ability, data reporting capabilities, financial standing, or other information necessary to satisfactorily meet the requirements set forth or implied in this RFP. The Agency may make onsite visits to an operational facility or facilities of a proposer to evaluate further the proposer's capability to perform the duties required by this RFP. At its discretion, the Agency may also check or contact any reference provided by the proposer.
- 8. RFP Is Not An Offer.** Neither this RFP nor any subsequent discussions shall give rise to any commitment on the part of the State or the Agency or confer any rights on any proposer unless and until a contract is fully executed by the necessary parties. The contract document will represent the entire agreement between the proposer and the Agency and will supersede all prior negotiations, representations or agreements, alleged or made, between the parties. The State shall assume no liability for costs incurred by the proposer or for payment of services under the terms of the contract until the successful proposer is notified that the contract has been accepted and approved by the Agency and, if required, by the Attorney General's Office.

D. RIGHTS RESERVED TO THE STATE

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, a proposer implicitly accepts that the following rights are reserved to the State:

- 1. Timing Sequence.** The timing and sequence of events associated with this RFP shall ultimately be determined by the Agency.
- 2. Amending or Canceling RFP.** The Agency reserves the right to amend or cancel this RFP on any date and at any time, if the Agency deems it to be necessary, appropriate, or otherwise in the best interests of the State.
- 3. No Acceptable Proposals.** In the event that no acceptable proposals are submitted in response to this RFP, the Agency may reopen the procurement process, if it is determined to be in the best interests of the State.
- 4. Award and Rejection of Proposals.** The Agency reserves the right to award in part, to reject any and all proposals in whole or in part, for misrepresentation or if the proposal limits or modifies any of the terms, conditions, or specifications of this RFP. The Agency may waive minor technical defects, irregularities, or omissions, if in its judgment the best interests of the State will be served. The Agency reserves the right to reject the proposal of any proposer who submits a proposal after the submission date and time.

- 5. Sole Property of the State.** All proposals submitted in response to this RFP are to be the sole property of the State. Any product, whether acceptable or unacceptable, developed under a contract awarded as a result of this RFP shall be the sole property of the State, unless stated otherwise in this RFP or subsequent contract. The right to publish, distribute, or disseminate any and all information or reports, or part thereof, shall accrue to the State without recourse.
- 6. Contract Negotiation.** The Agency reserves the right to negotiate or contract for all or any portion of the services contained in this RFP. The Agency further reserves the right to contract with one or more proposer for such services. After reviewing the scored criteria, the Agency may seek Best and Final Offers (BFO) on cost from proposers. The Agency may set parameters on any BFOs received.
- 7. Clerical Errors in Award.** The Agency reserves the right to correct inaccurate awards resulting from its clerical errors. This may include, in extreme circumstances, revoking the awarding of a contract already made to a proposer and subsequently awarding the contract to another proposer. Such action on the part of the State shall not constitute a breach of contract on the part of the State since the contract with the initial proposer is deemed to be void *ab initio* and of no effect as if no contract ever existed between the State and the proposer.
- 8. Key Personnel.** When the Agency is the sole funder of a purchased service, the Agency reserves the right to approve any additions, deletions, or changes in key personnel, with the exception of key personnel who have terminated employment. The Agency also reserves the right to approve replacements for key personnel who have terminated employment. The Agency further reserves the right to require the removal and replacement of any of the proposer's key personnel who do not perform adequately, regardless of whether they were previously approved by the Agency.

E. STATUTORY AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, the proposer implicitly agrees to comply with all applicable State and federal laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1. Freedom of Information, C.G.S. § 1-210(b).** The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) generally requires the disclosure of documents in the possession of the State upon request of any citizen, unless the content of the document falls within certain categories of exemption, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-210(b). Proposers are generally advised not to include in their proposals any confidential information. If the proposer indicates that certain documentation, as required by this RFP, is submitted in confidence, the State will endeavor to keep said information confidential to the extent permitted by law. The State has no obligation to initiate, prosecute, or defend any legal proceeding or to seek a protective order or other similar relief to prevent disclosure of any information pursuant to a FOIA request. The proposer has the burden of establishing the availability of any FOIA exemption in any proceeding where it is an issue. While a proposer may claim an exemption to the State's FOIA, the final administrative authority to release or exempt any or all material so identified rests with the State. In no event shall the State or any of its employees have any liability for disclosure of documents or information in the possession of the State and which the State or its employees believe(s) to be required pursuant to the FOIA or other requirements of law.

- 2. Contract Compliance, C.G.S. § 4a-60 and Regulations of CT State Agencies § 46a-68j-21 thru 43, inclusive.** CT statute and regulations impose certain obligations on State agencies (as well as contractors and subcontractors doing business with the State) to ensure that State agencies do not enter into contracts with organizations or businesses that discriminate against protected class persons.
- 3. Consulting Agreements, C.G.S. § 4a-81. Consulting Agreements Representation, C.G.S. § 4a-81.** Pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 4a-81 the successful contracting party shall certify that it has not entered into any consulting agreements in connection with this Contract, except for the agreements listed below. "Consulting agreement" means any written or oral agreement to retain the services, for a fee, of a consultant for the purposes of (A) providing counsel to a contractor, vendor, consultant or other entity seeking to conduct, or conducting, business with the State, (B) contacting, whether in writing or orally, any executive, judicial, or administrative office of the State, including any department, institution, bureau, board, commission, authority, official or employee for the purpose of solicitation, dispute resolution, introduction, requests for information, or (C) any other similar activity related to such contracts. "Consulting agreement" does not include any agreements entered into with a consultant who is registered under the provisions of chapter 10 of the Connecticut General Statutes as of the date such contract is executed in accordance with the provisions of section 4a-81 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Such representation shall be sworn as true to the best knowledge and belief of the person signing the resulting contract and shall be subject to the penalties of false statement.
- 4. Campaign Contribution Restriction, C.G.S. § 9-612.** For all State contracts, defined in section 9-612 of the Connecticut General Statutes as having a value in a calendar year of \$50,000 or more, or a combination or series of such agreements or contracts having a value of \$100,000 or more, the authorized signatory to the resulting contract must represent that they have received the State Elections Enforcement Commission's notice advising state contractors of state campaign contribution and solicitation prohibitions, and will inform its principals of the contents of the notice, as set forth in "Notice to Executive Branch State Contractors and Prospective State Contractors of Campaign Contribution and Solicitation Limitations." Such notice is available at https://seec.ct.gov/Portal/data/forms/ContrForms/seec_form_11_notice_only.pdf
- 5. Gifts, C.G.S. § 4-252.** Pursuant to section 4-252 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Acting Governor Susan Bysiewicz's Executive Order No. 21-2, the Contractor, for itself and on behalf of all of its principals or key personnel who submitted a bid or proposal, represents:
- (1) That no gifts were made by (A) the Contractor, (B) any principals and key personnel of the Contractor, who participate substantially in preparing bids, proposals or negotiating State contracts, or (C) any agent of the Contractor or principals and key personnel, who participates substantially in preparing bids, proposals or negotiating State contracts, to (i) any public official or State employee of the State agency or quasi- public agency soliciting bids or proposals for State contracts, who participates substantially in the preparation of bid solicitations or requests for proposals for State contracts or the negotiation or award of State contracts, or (ii) any public official or State employee of any other State agency, who has supervisory or appointing authority over such State agency or quasi-public agency;
 - (2) That no such principals and key personnel of the Contractor, or agent of the Contractor or of such principals and key personnel, knows of any action by the

Contractor to circumvent such prohibition on gifts by providing for any other principals and key personnel, official, employee or agent of the Contractor to provide a gift to any such public official or State employee; and

(3) That the Contractor is submitting bids or proposals without fraud or collusion with any person.

Any bidder or proposer that does not agree to the representations required under this section shall be rejected and the State agency or quasi-public agency shall award the contract to the next highest ranked proposer or the next lowest responsible qualified bidder or seek new bids or proposals.

6. Iran Energy Investment Certification C.G.S. § 4-252(a). Pursuant to C.G.S. § 4-252(a), the successful contracting party shall certify the following: (a) that it has not made a direct investment of twenty million dollars or more in the energy sector of Iran on or after October 1, 2013, as described in Section 202 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act of 2010, and has not increased or renewed such investment on or after said date. (b) If the Contractor makes a good faith effort to determine whether it has made an investment described in subsection (a) of this section it shall not be subject to the penalties of false statement pursuant to section 4-252a of the Connecticut General Statutes. A "good faith effort" for purposes of this subsection includes a determination that the Contractor is not on the list of persons who engage in certain investment activities in Iran created by the Department of General Services of the State of California pursuant to Division 2, Chapter 2.7 of the California Public Contract Code. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to impair the ability of the State agency or quasi-public agency to pursue a breach of contract action for any violation of the provisions of the resulting contract.

7. Nondiscrimination Certification, C.G.S. § 4a-60 and 4a-60a. If a bidder is awarded an opportunity to negotiate a contract, the proposer must provide the State agency with *written representation* in the resulting contract that certifies the bidder complies with the State's nondiscrimination agreements and warranties. This nondiscrimination certification is required for all State contracts – regardless of type, term, cost, or value. Municipalities and CT State agencies are exempt from this requirement. The authorized signatory of the contract shall demonstrate his or her understanding of this obligation by either (A) initialing the nondiscrimination affirmation provision in the body of the resulting contract, or (B) providing an affirmative response in the required online bid or response to a proposal question, if applicable, which asks if the contractor understands its obligations. If a bidder or vendor refuses to agree to this representation, such bidder or vendor shall be rejected and the State agency or quasi-public agency shall award the contract to the next highest ranked vendor or the next lowest responsible qualified bidder or seek new bids or proposals.

8. Access to Data for State Auditors. The Contractor shall provide to OPM access to any data, as defined in C.G.S. § 4e-1, concerning the resulting contract that are in the possession or control of the Contractor upon demand and shall provide the data to OPM in a format prescribed by OPM [or the Client Agency] and the State Auditors of Public Accounts at no additional cost.

VI. APPENDIX

A. ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS / DEFINITIONS

BFO	Best and Final Offer
BNL	<i>By Name List</i> - An online system accessible to each Coordinated Access Network (CAN), which is used to prioritize persons experiencing homelessness for any housing resource for which they are eligible
CAN	<i>Coordinated Access Network</i> - A collaboration of service providers working together through various monthly meetings to streamline and standardize the process for Consumers to access assistance. There are 7 CAN regions in CT. Here is the map https://cceh.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/CT-CAN-Map-2019-with-names-1-768x593.jpg
C.G.S.	Connecticut General Statutes
CHRO	Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CT)
COC	Continuum of Care - A coalition of private and public-sector agencies and individuals working to prevent and end homelessness in Connecticut
Consumer	Individuals, age eighteen (18) or older who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, who have a diagnosed mental health and/or substance use disorder
CT	Connecticut
DAS	Department of Administrative Services (CT)
DDaP	DMHAS Data Performance - A web-based data entry and on-line file processing application that simplifies the collection of data needed for State and Federal Reporting by the Private Non-Profit (PNP) agencies
Disabling Condition	A physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug use, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that is expected to be long continuing or of indefinite duration; and substantially impedes the individual's ability to live independently; and could be improved by the provision of more suitable housing conditions. Also, the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or any condition arising from the etiologic agency for acquired human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
DMHAS	Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (CT)
DOH	Department of Housing (CT)
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act (CT)
Harm Reduction	A Public Health strategy that includes range of public policies designed to lessen the negative social and/or physical consequences associated with various human behaviors, both legal and illegal
HMIS	<i>Homeless Management Information System</i> - An electronic data collection system that stores consumer-level

	information about homeless persons who access the homeless service system
Homeless	To be homeless is when a person or family resides in one (1) of the following places or circumstances: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Places not meant for human habitation such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings; 2. Emergency shelters; 3. Safe Havens; 4. Transitional or rapid re-housing for homeless persons or families who originally came from the streets or otherwise outdoors or an emergency shelter and who lacks the resources to be able to sustain a rental unit once the rapid rehousing rental assistance terminates; 5. Any of the above places but is spending a short period of time, up to ninety (90) consecutive days, in a hospital or other institution; 6. Is being evicted within one (1) week from a private dwelling and no subsequent residence has been secured and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing; or 7. Is being discharged within one (1) week from an institution in which the person has been a resident for no more than ninety (90) consecutive days and no subsequent residence has been secured, and the person lacks the resources and support networks needed to obtain housing
Housing First	An Evidence Based Practice and approach to ending homelessness that centers on providing housing as quickly as possible, and then providing support services as needed
Housing Services and Sustainability Plan	A mutually agreed upon tool, developed between the Contractor and Consumer which is used to identify the actions necessary to meet the Consumers' needs and establish goals that will assist Consumers to achieve self-sufficiency
H2H	Homeless to Housing Services program
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development (U.S.)
IRS	Internal Revenue Service (U.S.)
LMHA	Local Mental Health Authority
LOI	Letter of Intent
OAG	Office of the Attorney General (CT)
OPM	Office of Policy and Management (CT)
OSC	Office of the State Comptroller (CT)
P.A.	Public Act (CT)
POS	Purchase of Service
PSH	<i>Permanent Supportive Housing</i> - permanent housing in which housing assistance (e.g., long-term leasing or rental assistance) and supportive services are provided to assist households with at least one member (adult or child) with a disability in achieving housing stability
RFP	Request For Proposals
SEEC	State Elections Enforcement Commission (CT)
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Street Canvassing	Essential services that meet the immediate needs of locating unsheltered homeless persons and connecting them with emergency shelter service, housing and/or emergency health

outreach and engagement	services. These may include engagement, transportation, case management and referrals to community services.
Universal Data Elements	Data and standards identified in the HMIS Data and Technical Standards, as required by HUD, (Attachment A). HMIS Data and Technical Standards shall include but not be limited to standardized information on the characteristics, service patterns and service needs of homeless persons and families.
Unsheltered Homelessness	When a person or family resides in places not meant for human habitation such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings and need to be located and connected to services
U.S.	United States

- *contractor*: a private provider organization, CT State agency, or municipality that enters into a POS contract with the Agency as a result of this RFP
- *proposer*: a private provider organization, CT State agency, or municipality that has submitted a proposal to the Agency in response to this RFP. This term may be used interchangeably with respondent throughout the RFP.
- *prospective proposer*: a private provider organization, CT State agency, or municipality that may submit a proposal to the Agency in response to this RFP, but has not yet done so
- *subcontractor*: an individual (other than an employee of the contractor) or business entity hired by a contractor to provide a specific health or human service as part of a POS contract with the Agency as a result of this RFP

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B. STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES**Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services**

The undersigned Respondent affirms and declares that:

1) General

- a. This proposal is executed and signed with full knowledge and acceptance of the RFP CONDITIONS stated in the RFP.
- b. The Respondent will deliver services to the Agency the cost proposed in the RFP and within the timeframes therein.
- c. The Respondent will seek prior approval from the Agency before making any changes to the location of services.
- d. Neither the Respondent of any official of the organization nor any subcontractor the Respondent of any official of the subcontractor organization has received any notices of debarment or suspension from contracting with the State of CT or the Federal Government.
- e. Neither the Respondent of any official of the organization nor any subcontractor to the Respondent of any official of the subcontractor's organization has received any notices of debarment or suspension from contracting with other states within the United States.

Legal Name of Organization:

Authorized Signatory

Date

C. REQUIRED LETTER OF INTENT

**State of Connecticut
 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
 RFP#: DMHAS-SWS-Housing-UHSOC-RFP-2024**

Return to:
 DMHAS Official Contact:
DMHAS.FiscalContractsct.gov

The organization below intends to submit a proposal in response to the above referenced RFP.

Note: This letter is a non-binding expression of interest and does not obligate the sender to submit a proposal.

Prospective Proposer:

	()-	
Legal Name	Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	Town, State	Zip Code

Contact Person:

Name	Title	
Mailing Address	Town, State	Zip Code
()-	()-	
Telephone Number	FAX Number	E-mail Address

Person Authorized to Sign Contract:

Name	Title
Signature	Date

D. COVER SHEET**Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services****Due Date: March 7, 2024 by 3pm****RFP#: DMHAS-SWS-Housing-UHSOC-RFP-2024**_____
Primary Business Name_____
FEIN # & DUNS#_____
Business Address_____
Telephone Number_____
Town, State_____
Zip Code

Contact Person: *(Individual other than Authorized Official who can provide additional information about the proposal or who has immediate responsibility for the proposal)*

Name_____
Title_____
Street Address_____
Town, State, Zip Code_____
Telephone Number_____
Facsimile Number_____
E-mail Address

Authorized Official: *(Individual empowered to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of the Contractor)*

Name_____
Title_____
Street Address_____
Town, State, Zip Code_____
Telephone Number_____
Facsimile Number_____
E-mail Address_____
Signature

Total Amount of Proposal: _____

E. BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE

DIRECT EXPENSES	ANNUAL Costs
5100: SALARIES	
5101 Staff Salaries & Wages (title, hourly rate and % of FTE)	
5102 Overtime	
5103 Non-Routine Comp. (specify in narrative)	
Total Salaries	
5200: FRINGE BENEFITS	
5300: CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	
5301 Medical Professional	
5302 Behavioral Health Professional	
5303 Contracted Workers - Non-Payroll	
5304 Other Contractual (specify in narrative)	
Total Contractual Services	
5400: TRANSPORTATION	
5401 Staff Travel Reimbursement	
5402 Vehicle Leases	
5403 Vehicle Maintenance	
5404 Other Transportation (specify in narrative)	
Total Transportation	
5500: MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	
5501 Food	
5502 Lab & Medical Supplies	
5503 Equipment (Less than \$5,000)	
5504 Other Mtrls and Sppls (specify in narrative)	
Total Materials/Supplies	
5600: FACILITIES	
5601 Rent and Real Estate Taxes	
5602 Security	
5603 Maintenance & Repair - Facility and Plant	
5604 Utilities	
5605 Other Facilities (specify in narrative)	
Total Facilities	
5700: CAPITAL EXPENSES (> \$5,000)	
5701 Capital Equipment	
5702 Depreciation	
5703 Other Capital (specify in narrative)	
Total Capital Expenses	
5800: OTHER EXPENSES	
5801 Communications	
5802 Insurance	
5803 Housekeeping	

5804	Staff Training and Conferences	
5805	Drug Testing	
5806	Other (specify in narrative)	
Total Other Expenses		
5900: CLIENT SUBSIDIES		
5901	Transportation	
5902	Nutrition/Food Vouchers	
5903	Education	
5904	Housing	
5905	Personal Items	
5906	Other Client Subsidies (specify in narrative)	
Total Client Subsidies		
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		
INDIRECT EXPENSES		
7100: ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL		
7111	Staff Salaries & Wages	
7120	Fringe Benefits	
	All Other A&G (Please provide details)	
TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSES		
TOTAL		

Note:

This budget is available in an excel document. Please contact the Official Contact for a copy.

Please attach an additional page describing the budget narrative.

The rest of the page was intentionally left blank.

F. Acknowledgement of Contract Compliance - Notification to Bidders

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES CONTRACT COMPLIANCE REGULATIONS NOTIFICATION TO BIDDERS

(Revised 09/3/15)

The contract to be awarded is subject to contract compliance requirements mandated by [Sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes; and, when the awarding agency is the State, [Sections 46a-71\(d\) and 46a-81i\(d\)](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes. There are Contract Compliance Regulations codified at [Section 46a-68j-21 through 43](#) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, which establish a procedure for awarding all contracts covered by [Sections 4a-60 and 46a-71\(d\)](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

According to [Section 46a-68j-30\(9\)](#) of the Contract Compliance Regulations, every agency awarding a contract subject to the contract compliance requirements has an obligation to “aggressively solicit the participation of legitimate minority business enterprises as bidders, contractors, subcontractors and suppliers of materials.” “Minority business enterprise” is defined in [Section 4a-60](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes as a business wherein fifty-one percent or more of the capital stock, or assets belong to a person or persons: “(1) Who are active in daily affairs of the enterprise; (2) who have the power to direct the management and policies of the enterprise; and (3) who are members of a minority, as such term is defined in subsection (a) of [Section 32-9n](#).” “Minority” groups are defined in [Section 32-9n](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes as “(1) Black Americans . . . (2) Hispanic Americans . . . (3) persons who have origins in the Iberian Peninsula . . . (4) Women . . . (5) Asian Pacific Americans and Pacific Islanders; (6) American Indians . . .” An individual with a disability is also a minority business enterprise as provided by [Section 4a-60g](#) of the Connecticut General Statutes. The above definitions apply to the contract compliance requirements by virtue of [Section 46a-68j-21\(11\)](#) of the Contract Compliance Regulations.

The awarding agency will consider the following factors when reviewing the bidder’s qualifications under the contract compliance requirements:

- (a) the bidder’s success in implementing an affirmative action plan;
- (b) the bidder’s success in developing an apprenticeship program complying with [Sections 46a-68-1 to 46a-68-17](#) of the Administrative Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, inclusive;
- (c) the bidder’s promise to develop and implement a successful affirmative action plan;
- (d) the bidder’s submission of employment statistics contained in the “Employment Information Form”, indicating that the composition of its workforce is at or near parity when compared to the racial and sexual composition of the workforce in the relevant labor market area; and
- (e) the bidder’s promise to set aside a portion of the contract for legitimate minority business enterprises. See [Section 46a-68j-30\(10\)\(E\)](#) of the Contract Compliance Regulations.

INSTRUCTIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION

The following [BIDDER CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT](#) must be completed in full, signed, and submitted with the bid for this contract. The contract awarding agency and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities will use the information contained thereon to determine the bidders compliance to [Sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a](#) CONN. GEN. STAT., and [Sections 46a-68j-23](#) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies regarding equal employment opportunity, and the bidder’s good faith efforts to include minority business enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers for the work of the contract.

1) Definition of Small Contractor

[Section 4a-60g](#) CONN. GEN. STAT. defines a small contractor as a company that has been doing business under the same management and control and has maintained its principal place of business in Connecticut for a one year period immediately prior to its application for certification under this section, had gross revenues not exceeding fifteen million dollars in the most recently completed fiscal year, and at least fifty-one percent of the ownership of which is held by a person or persons who are active in the daily affairs of the company, and have the power to direct the management and policies of the company, except that a nonprofit corporation shall be construed to be a small contractor if such nonprofit corporation meets the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision [4a-60g](#) CONN. GEN. STAT.

The contract to be awarded is subject to contract compliance requirements mandated by Sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a of the Connecticut General Statutes; and, when the awarding agency is the State, Sections 46a-71(d) and 46a-81i(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes. There are Contract Compliance Regulations codified at Section 46a-68j-21

through 43 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, which establish a procedure for awarding all contracts covered by Sections 4a-60 and 46a-71(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

According to Section 46a-68j-30(9) of the Contract Compliance Regulations, every agency awarding a contract subject to the contract compliance requirements has an obligation to “aggressively solicit the participation of legitimate minority business enterprises as bidders, contractors, subcontractors and suppliers of materials.”

“Minority business enterprise” is defined in Section 4a-60 of the Connecticut General Statutes as a business wherein fifty-one percent or more of the capital stock, or assets belong to a person or persons: “(1) Who are active in daily affairs of the enterprise; (2) who have the power to direct the management and policies of the enterprise; and (3) who are members of a minority, as such term is defined in subsection (a) of Section 32-9n.”

“Minority” groups are defined in Section 32-9n of the Connecticut General Statutes as “(1) Black Americans . . . (2) Hispanic Americans . . . (3) persons who have origins in the Iberian Peninsula . . . (4) Women . . . (5) Asian Pacific Americans and Pacific Islanders; (6) American Indians . . .” An individual with a disability is also a minority business enterprise as provided by Section 4a-60g of the Connecticut General Statutes. The above definitions apply to the contract compliance requirements by virtue of Section 46a-68j-21(11) of the Contract Compliance Regulations.

The awarding agency will consider the following factors when reviewing the bidder’s qualifications under the contract compliance requirements:

- (a) the bidder’s success in implementing an affirmative action plan;
- (b) the bidder’s success in developing an apprenticeship program complying with Sections 46a-68-1 to 46a-68-17 of the Administrative Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, inclusive;
- (c) the bidder’s promise to develop and implement a successful affirmative action plan;
- (d) the bidder’s submission of employment statistics contained in the “Employment Information Form”, indicating that the composition of its workforce is at or near parity when compared to the racial and sexual composition of the workforce in the relevant labor market area; and
- (e) the bidder’s promise to set aside a portion of the contract for legitimate minority business enterprises. See Section 46a-68j-30(10)(E) of the Contract Compliance Regulations.

*** INSTRUCTIONS Proposer must sign acknowledgment below, and return acknowledgment to awarding agency along with signed proposal.**

The undersigned acknowledges receiving and reading a copy of the “Notification to Bidders” form.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

INSTRUCTIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION

The following **BIDDER CONTRACT COMPLIANCE MONITORING REPORT** must be completed in full, signed, and submitted with the bid for this contract. The contract awarding agency and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities will use the information contained thereon to determine the bidders compliance to Sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a CONN. GEN. STAT., and Sections 46a-68j-23 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies regarding equal employment opportunity, and the bidder's good faith efforts to include minority business enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers for the work of the contract.

1) Definition of Small Contractor

Section 4a-60g CONN. GEN. STAT. defines a small contractor as a company that has been doing business under the same management and control and has maintained its principal place of business in Connecticut for a one year period immediately prior to its application for certification under this section, had gross revenues not exceeding fifteen million dollars in the most recently completed fiscal year, and at least fifty-one percent of the ownership of which is held by a person or persons who are active in the daily affairs of the company, and have the power to direct the management and policies of the company, except that a nonprofit corporation shall be construed to be a small contractor if such nonprofit corporation meets the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision 4a-60g CONN. GEN. STAT.

To download an electronic copy of the Bidder Contract Compliance Monitoring Report from CHRO:

https://www.ct.gov/chro/lib/chro/Notification_to_Bidders.pdf

Please attach a copy of the **Bidder Contract Compliance Monitoring Report** to the Proposal.

The rest of the page was left intentionally blank.

G. Equal Employment Opportunity

Please see link below for the OOE form or contact your Official Agency Contact for the form

[Home \(eeocdata.org\)](http://eeocdata.org)

H. Campaign Contribution Certification



STATE OF CONNECTICUT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION CERTIFICATION

Written or electronic certification to accompany a bid or proposal or a non-competitive contract with a value of \$50,000 or more, pursuant to C.G.S. § 9-612.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete all sections of the form. Attach additional pages, if necessary, to provide full disclosure about any campaign contributions made to campaigns of candidates for statewide public office or the General Assembly, as described herein. Sign and date the form, under oath, in the presence of a Commissioner of the Superior Court or Notary Public. Submit the completed form to the awarding State agency at the time of submission of your bid or proposal (if no bid or proposal– submit this completed form with the earliest submittal of any document to the state or quasi-public agency prior to the execution of the contract), and if there is a change in the information contained in the most recently filed certification, such person shall submit an updated certification either (i) not later than thirty (30) days after the effective date of such change or (ii) upon the submittal of any new bid or proposal for a contract, whichever is earlier.

Check One:

- Initial Certification**
- Updated Certification because of change of information contained in the most recently filed certification**

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION CERTIFICATION:

I certify that neither the contractor or prospective state contractor, nor any of its principals, have made any contributions to, or solicited any contributions on behalf of, any party committee, exploratory committee, candidate for state-wide office or for the General Assembly, or political committee authorized to make contributions to or expenditures to or for, the benefit of such candidates, in the previous four years, that were determined by the State Elections Enforcement Commission to be in violation of subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of Section 9-612 of the General Statutes, without mitigating circumstances having been found to exist concerning such violation. Each such certification shall be sworn as true to the best knowledge and belief of the person signing the certification, subject to the penalties of false statement. If there is any change in the information contained in the most recently filed certification, such person shall submit an updated certification not later than thirty days after the effective date of any such change or upon the submittal of any new bid or proposal for a state contract, whichever is earlier.

All Campaign Contributions on behalf of any party committee, exploratory committee, candidate for state-wide office or for the General Assembly, or political committee authorized to make contributions to or expenditures to or for, the benefit of such candidate, for a period of four years prior to signing the contract or date of the response to the bid, whichever is longer, include:

<u>Contribution Date</u>	<u>Name of Contributor</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Description</u>

Sworn as true to the best of my knowledge and belief, subject to the penalties of false statement.

Printed Contractor Name

Printed Name of Authorized Official

Signature of Authorized Official

Subscribed and acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Commissioner of the Superior Court (or Notary Public)

My Commission Expires

I. PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

This is a tool for agencies to customize to make response process easier for respondents. It should be customized for each RFP. Agencies may determine to remove it if it causes confusion.

To assist respondents in managing proposal planning and document collation processes, this document summarizes key dates and proposal requirements for this RFP. Please note that this document does not supersede what is stated in the RFP. Please refer to the Proposal Submission Overview, Required Proposal Submission Outline, and Mandatory Provisions (Sections II, III, and IV of this RFP) for more comprehensive details. It is the responsibility of each respondent to ensure that all required documents, forms, and attachments, are submitted in a timely manner.

Key Dates

Procurement Timetable		
The Agency reserves the right to modify these dates at its sole discretion.		
Item	Action	Date
1	RFP Release	1/11/24
2	Letter of Intent Due	1/25/24
3	RFP/Bidder's Conference Date	2/8/24
4	RFP/Bidder's Conference Time	10-12
5	Deadline for Questions	2/15/24 by 3pm
6	Answers Released	2/22/24
7	Proposals Due	3/7/24 by 3pm
8	(*) Proposer Selection	
9	(*) Start of Contract Negotiations	
10	(*) Start of Contract	7/1/2024

Proposal Content Checklist

- Cover Sheet** including required information:
- Table of Contents**
- Executive Summary:** high-level summary of proposal and cost
- Main proposal and with relevant attachments.** *Proposers should use their discretion to determine whether certain required information is sufficiently captured in the body of their proposal or requires additional attachments for clarification.* Additional attachments may include (bullets below are examples only):
 - Organizational Expectations
 - Services Requirements/Scope of Services
 - Staffing Requirements
 - Data and Technology Requirements
 - Financial Requirements
 - Budget and Budget Narrative (Include startup cost)

Registration with State Contracting Portal (if not already registered):

- Register at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/Registration>
- Submit Campaign Contribution Certification (OPM Ethics Form 1):
<https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/Fin-PSA/Forms/Ethics-Forms>

- Acknowledgement of Contract Compliance – Notification to Bidders**
- Equal Employment Opportunity**
- IRS Determination Letter** (for nonprofit proposers)
- Three years of most recent annual audited financial statements; OR any financial statements prepared by a Certified Public Accountant** for proposers whose organizations have been incorporated for less than three years.
- Proposed budget**, including budget narrative and cost schedules for planned subcontractors, if applicable.
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement**
- Statement of Assurances**
- Declaration of Confidential Information**
- Proof of DPH Clinical Licensure – (as applicable)**
- Organizational Chart**
- Resume of Key Personnel**

Formatting Checklist

- Is the proposal formatted to fit 8 ½ x 11 (letter-sized) paper?
- Is the main body of the proposal within the 20-page limit?
- Is the proposal in 12-point, Times New Roman font?
- Does the proposal format follow normal (1 inch) margins and 1 ½ line spacing?
- Does the proposer's name appear in the header of each page?
- Does the proposal include page numbers in the footer?
- Are confidential labels applied to sensitive information (if applicable)?

The rest of the page was intentionally left blank.