

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY
OREGON CITY, OREGON

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Hearings Officer

RFP#: 02-2021

Issued: January 21, 2021

PROPOSALS DUE NO LATER THAN
February 11, 2021 at 4:00pm
LATE PROPOSALS NOT ACCEPTED

To: Interested Individuals
Subject: Request for Proposal for a Hearings Officer
Issue Date: January 21, 2021
Closing Date: February 11, 2021 @ 4:00pm
Proposals may be delivered by post or email.

Submit Proposals to: Housing Authority of Clackamas County

Attention: Jason Kirkpatrick

By mail: P.O. Box 1510, Oregon City, Oregon 97045

By e-mail: jkirkpatrick@clackamas.us

RFP Contact:

For all questions, please contact:

Jason Kirkpatrick

Housing Authority of Clackamas County

email: jkirkpatrick@clackamas.us

I. INTRODUCTION

The Housing Authority of Clackamas County (HACC) is an independent government organization under the direction of the Clackamas County Department of Health, Housing and Human Services and is governed by a Board made up of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners plus up to two appointed Housing Authority Commissioners. With an annual operating budget of \$27.0 million, HACC maintains 445 public housing units, ~1,800 Housing Choice Vouchers, and 457 units of affordable and special needs housing.

RFP Overview

Consistent with federal regulations, HACC provides hearings for residents participating in federally assisted housing programs. Hearings provide HACC residents, applicants, and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participants a hearing/review on complaints regarding HACC's action, or failure to act, in such a way that affects their rights under the program, their voucher or dwelling lease, or with HACC's application of its regulations or policies which the resident or applicant or participant believes adversely affects their individual rights, duties, welfare or status.

Hearings may be conducted by qualified individuals from outside the HACC, referred to as the Hearings Officer, or by internal management staff that have no prior knowledge of the case. Due to workload constraints, HACC heavily relies on the qualified outside Hearings Officer for most hearings. Hearings Officers should have prior experience with legal procedure, application of the law, and familiarity with the Code of Federal regulations. Hearings Officers should be able to take accurate notes regarding the hearing and summarize the proceedings and formulate a detailed written opinion as a result of that hearing. HACC will provide training and example documentation to the selected hearings officer.

The most frequent types of hearings are appeals by applicants for denial of admission into our programs, tenant's termination of assistance, or a denial of reasonable accommodation. Hearings are not provided to address disputes between residents, or class grievances against HACC or to initiate, negotiate or review policies established by HACC.

Hearings are provided for the following HACC programs:

- The Public Housing Program
- The Housing Choice Voucher Program
- The Shelter Plus Care Program
- Local Projects – Affordable Housing portfolio

Approximately 15 – 20 hearings are conducted annually by the Hearings Officer. Hearings are typically held at HACC's Administrative Office, located at 13930 S. Gain St, Oregon City, OR. Remote hearings and alternate sites may be used with prior Hearings Officer approval.

II. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Hearings Officer is responsible for conducting fair hearings and rendering fair and reasonable decisions based on the evidence introduced at each hearing as it applies to the law and HACC's policies including the following:

- Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan Chapter 16:
<https://dochub.clackamas.us/documents/drupal/8ee6f7d1-0c36-48e4-9677-336b95fb9858>
- Public Housing Admissions and Continued Occupancy Plan Chapter 14:
<https://dochub.clackamas.us/documents/drupal/a38c7914-ea37-4c2f-a815-711d4a97c92b>
- Procedure for Termination of Participation in Shelter Plus Care Chapter 19 of the Administrative Plan: <https://dochub.clackamas.us/documents/drupal/8ee6f7d1-0c36-48e4-9677-336b95fb9858>

Copies of the full HCV Administrative Plan and of the Public Housing Admissions and Continued Occupancy Plan are available at the following web site:
<https://www.clackamas.us/housingauthority/plansandreports.html>

Scope of Services - General Conditions:

A. Persons expressing interest in being the Hearings Officer should

1. Be familiar with contested case litigation in the State court, with administrative hearings and with the rules of evidence and procedure;
2. At the time of hiring, be familiar with the Oregon Landlord/Tenant Act and related statutes, Federal regulations related to low-income public housing and HCV rental assistance, and HACC policies and procedures;
3. Be able to schedule a hearing within ten (10) days notification of the need for a hearing;
4. Be able to consistently, efficiently, promptly and fairly hear and decide cases;
5. Be able to agreeably work with people and deal evenhandedly with both sides of a dispute;
6. Be able to issue a written decision to each party within ten (10) days of the date of the hearing;
7. State the hourly fee, not a range, he or she will charge to conduct hearings and issue decisions. This fee should include hearing time, necessary research, and writing the opinion. The maximum number of hours shall not exceed four (4) without prior written approval from HACC;

8. State the hourly fee, not a range, he or she will charge for proposer supplied clerical and legal assistant support. The maximum number of hours per hearing will be two (2) without prior written approval from HACC.
9. Identify any other reimbursable expenses. These will be limited to the costs of transportation, toll telephone calls, and copying of documents;
10. Be able to keep accurate records for the purpose of computing compensable time;
11. Maintain admission to the Oregon State Bar.

III. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A. Overview

Brevity is strongly encouraged. Respond only to items listed below and include only relevant information. The HACC RFP Review Committee will not consider materials that are not requested below.

Once submitted, no additions, deletions, or substitutions may be made to written proposals.

B. Submission Requirements – Written Response

To be considered responsive and responsible, each respondent shall respond to the following requirements. Responses must be specific and complete unto themselves. Any submittal that, in the opinion of HACC, does not fully and completely address these requirements will not be reviewed. Limit your proposal to the equivalent of 15 pages. Pages may be double sided.

1. Cover Letter

Limit letter to a maximum of two (2) pages. Introduce yourself and describe your general philosophy and relevant experience for the contemplated work.

2. General Conditions

Address each of the eleven General Conditions listed above.

3. References

Provide up to three supportive references. At least one reference shall be a public agency.

a. Description of services provided

b. Name, address and current telephone number of contact.

4. Required Forms

- Complete the following forms:
 - Attachment B Lobbying Certification
 - Attachment C Debarment Certification
 - Attachment D HUD Forms

C. Format Requirements

To be considered responsive, each submittal should:

1. Be presented in an 8.5" X 11" format, either vertical or horizontal;
2. Be typed with a font size no smaller than 10 points;

IV. EVALUATION

A. Method of Award

HACC will appoint an internal Review Committee composed of staff and Resident Advisory Board Members to evaluate the Proposals. The Committee will evaluate written responses to the RFP, and shall apply the evaluation criteria and scoring set forth in Section IV.B below. The scores will be used to identify the highest ranked responses. The Committee will make its recommendation for contract award to the individual determined to be the most highly qualified based on the ranking.

B. Evaluation Criteria

Submission Requirement	Points
Cover Letter	10
Submitted Material Review	70
Cost	20

V. STATEMENTS & REQUIRED INFORMATION

A. Clarifications & Addenda

This RFP is posted at the following website: <http://www.clackamas.us/housingauthority/bids.html> . Any respondent requiring clarification of the information must submit specific questions or comments to the RFP Contact via email. The deadline for submitting such questions for the proposals portion of the process is February 3, 2021 12:00pm. If, in HACC's opinion, additional information or interpretation is necessary, such information will be supplied in the form of an Addendum that will be posted on the RFP website and e-mailed to any individual who has informally expressed interest in responding to this RFP to the RFP contact. Such Addenda shall have the same binding effect as though contained in the main body of the Request for Proposals. All Addenda shall be issued by HACC not less than three (3) calendar days prior to the proposal deadline.

B. Required Information

The successful respondent must be licensed to do business in the State of Oregon and must be licensed (if required by law) to perform the professional services proposed.

C. Minority Business (MBE) Goals

The firm submitting a proposal shall be aware of the HACC goals of consistency with Presidential Executive Orders 11625, 12138 and 12432 and Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968. The HACC

goal is to make efforts to ensure that small and minority-owned business, women's business enterprises, labor surplus area business, and individuals or firms located in or owned in substantial part by persons residing in the area of a HACC project are used when possible.

D. Award of Contract; Clarification or Rejection of Proposals

- HACC will use a competitive proposal procedure for the acquisition of Hearings Officer services as described in Section IV of this document.
- HACC will evaluate proposals and will rate proposals using the scoring methodology described in Section IV of this document.
- HACC reserves the right to seek clarification of the written Proposals from respondents.
- HACC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any informality in proposals received whenever such rejection or waiver is in the interest of the Housing Authority.
- HACC reserves the right to reject the Proposal of any proposer including those who have previously failed to perform properly, or to complete on time, contracts of a similar nature; who is not in a position to perform the contract, or who has neglected the payment of bills or otherwise disregarded their obligations to subcontractors, material suppliers, or employees. HACC also reserves the right to reject the Proposal of any proposer listed in the current "List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-procurement Programs" U.S. General Services Administration, Office of Acquisition Policy or listed in the HUD Limited Denial of Participation, current edition.
- This Hearings Officer services contract will be for a term not to exceed five years.
- The successful firm shall sign and file with HACC all documents necessary to the successful execution of the contract within ten calendar days after the notice of award.

E. Right to Protest

Any actual proposer who is adversely affected or aggrieved by HACC's award of the contract to another proposer on the same solicitation shall have seven (7) calendar days after notice of intent to award has been issued to submit to the Executive Director a written protest of the award. The written protest shall specify the grounds upon which the protest is based. A protest must meet the requirements of ORS 279B.410. HACC will not entertain protests submitted after the time period established in this rule.

F. Contract and Insurance Requirements

The form of contract contemplated has been included as Exhibit D.

Prior to executing a contract, the consultant team shall provide the following documents:

1. Proof of \$1,000,000 per occurrence (\$2,000,000 general aggregate) general liability insurance,
2. Proof of \$250,000 automobile insurance,
3. Proof of \$1,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence (\$2,000,000 general annual aggregate) professional liability insurance,
4. Proof of \$1,000,000 employers liability insurance,
5. Proof of Worker's Compensation insurance, and

All required insurance other than Professional Liability, Worker's Compensation, and Personal Automobile Liability shall include "Clackamas County, its agents, officers, and employees" as an additional insured.

G. Cancellation

HACC reserves the right to cancel or reject any or all Proposals, and to cancel award of this contract at any time before execution of the contract by both parties if cancellation is deemed to be in HACC's best interest. In no event shall HACC have any liability for cancellation of award.

H. Cost of Preparation

Costs incurred by respondents in preparation of a response to this RFP shall be borne by the respondents.

I. References

HACC reserves the right to request and investigate additional references other than those provided in the Request for Proposal (RFP) submittal. Investigation may include past performance of any proposer with respect to its successful performance of similar projects, compliance with specifications and contractual obligations, completion or delivery of a project on schedule or on budget, and its lawful payment of subcontractors, employees, and workers. If demanded by HACC, supportive references must be furnished.

J. Confidentiality

Proposals are public records. All information submitted by respondents shall be public record and subject to disclosure pursuant to the Oregon Public Records Act, except such portions of the Proposal for which respondent requests exception from disclosure consistent with Oregon Law. All requests shall be in writing, noting specifically which portion of the proposal the respondent requests exception from disclosure. Respondents shall not copyright, or cause to be copyrighted, any portion of any said document submitted to the HACC as a result of this RFP.

VII. EXHIBITS

- A. Hearings Officer Contract Format
- B. Lobbying Certificate
- C. Debarment Certificate
- D. Form HUD 5369-B: Instructions to Offerors Non-Construction
Form HUD 5369-C: Certifications and Representations of Offerors – Non-Construction Contract
Form HUD 5370-C: General Conditions for Non-Construction Contracts

- END -

**Example CONTRACT FOR HEARING OFFICER FOR THE
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY**

This contract is between the Housing Authority of the County of Clackamas, hereinafter called "HACC", and _____, hereinafter called "CONTRACTOR".

I. SCOPE OF SERVICES; CONTRACT AMOUNT; TERM

- A. Scope: Services to be provided under this contract are those outlined in Appendix A hereto, and include hearings for: Public Housing, the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV), Section 504 Reasonable Accommodations, Shelter Plus Care Program, Local Projects – Affordable Housing portfolio, Terminations Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) ineligibility appeals for Public Housing and HCV, and relocation disputes.
- B. Maximum Contract Amount: Payments to CONTRACTOR for services performed pursuant to the terms of this contract shall not exceed the sum total of \$75,000.00 (seventy-five thousand dollars).
- C. Term: The term of this contract shall commence on _____ and expire on _____ unless otherwise terminated.

II. COMPENSATION AND RECORDS

- A. Hourly Rates and Reimbursements.
HACC agrees to compensate the CONTRACTOR for satisfactorily performing the services identified in Section 1 herein, on a fee-for-service basis at the hourly rate of \$ __.00 for legal services and \$ __.00 for clerical services. Hourly rates **will** be billed in quarter hour increments. CONTRACTOR will also be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred directly in connection with performing the identified services. Reimbursable expenses will be limited to costs of transportation, telephone calls and copying of documents.
- B. Requests for Payment.
To receive payment, the CONTRACTOR shall maintain accurate records for the purpose of computing compensable time and reimbursable expenses. Such records shall reflect the hours or costs of each activity and shall be submitted to HACC within 10 days of issuing a written decision in any hearing done in conjunction with this contract. Compensation for each hearing shall be limited to four (4) service hours, two (2) clerical hours and \$ __.00 in reimbursable expenses without prior written agreement from HACC. Mileage will be reimbursed at the prevailing IRS-established per mile rate. CONTRACTOR shall be entitled to one (1) services hour and reimbursable expenses if HACC cancels a hearing without 24-hour notice to CONTRACTOR or in the event that the participant/resident fails to attend the hearing. In cases of inclement weather, CONTRACTOR will reschedule hearings at no additional cost to HACC. The standard for inclement weather would follow school closure or bus route change or delay.
- C. Withholding of Contract Payments:
Notwithstanding any other payment provision of this agreement, should the CONTRACTOR fail to submit required reports when due, or submit reports which appear patently inaccurate or inadequate on their face, or fail to perform or document the performance of contracted services, HACC shall immediately withhold payments hereunder. Such withholding of payment for cause may continue until the CONTRACTOR submits required reports, performs required service, or established to HACC's satisfaction that such failure arose out of causes beyond the control, and without the fault or negligence, of the CONTRACTOR.
- D. Record and Fiscal Control System. All payroll and financial records pertaining in whole or in part to this contract shall be clearly identified and readily accessible. Such records and documents should be retained for

A period of three (3) years after receipt of final payment under this contract and all other pending matters are closed.

- E. Access to Records. HACC, the State of Oregon and the Federal Government, and their duly authorized representatives shall have access to the books, documents, papers, and records of the CONTRACTOR which are directly pertinent to the contract for the purpose of making audit, examination, excerpts, and transcripts. (if an audit discloses that payments to the CONTRACTOR were in excess of the amount to which the CONTRACTOR was entitled, then the CONTRACTOR shall repay the amount of the excess to the HACC).

III MANNER OF PERFORMANCE

- A. Compliance with Laws, Regulations and HACC Policies. The CONTRACTOR shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances applicable to the work to be done under this contract. In addition, CONTRACTOR shall comply with applicable HACC policies.
- B. Special Federal Requirements. No member, officer, or employee of the Local Authority, no member of the governing body of the locality in which the Project is situated, no member of the governing body of the locality in which the Local Authority was activated, and no other public official of such locality or localities who exercises any functions or responsibilities with respect to the Project, during his tenure or for one year thereafter, shall have any interest, direct or indirect, in this contract or the proceeds thereof.
- C. Subcontracts. CONTRACTOR shall not enter into any subcontracts for any of the work scheduled under this contract without obtaining prior written approval from HACC.
- D. Independent Contractor Status. CONTRACTOR certifies that it is an independent CONTRACTOR and not an employee or agent of HACC, County, State, or Federal Government. Responsibility for all taxes, assessments, and any other charges imposed upon employers shall be the sole responsibility of the CONTRACTOR.
- E. Workers Compensation. CONTRACTOR is acting as a sole proprietor or is an insured employer for purposes of the Oregon Workers' Compensation law (ORS Chapter 656) and is solely liable for any Worker's Compensation coverage under this contract. If the CONTRACTOR has the assistance of other persons in the performance of this contract, the CONTRACTOR shall qualify and remain qualified for the term of this contract as an insured employer under ORS 656.01-7 and ORS 656.407.
- F. PERS. CONTRACTOR is not a contributing member of the Public Employee's Retirement System.

IV. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- A. Indemnity. The CONTRACTOR agrees to indemnify, save harmless and defend HACC, its officers, commissioners, employees and agents from and against all claims and actions, and all expenses incidental to the investigation and defense thereof, arising out of or based upon damage or injuries of any kind to persons or property caused by the errors, omissions, fault or negligence of the CONTRACTOR or the CONTRACTOR's employees.
- B. Insurance. CONTRACTOR shall at all times during the term of this contract maintain Professional Errors and Omissions Liability Insurance of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence. The CONTRACTOR shall provide current copies of the above policies to HACC upon request, CONTRACTOR shall also maintain Automobile liability insurance in the amount of not less than \$250,000 per accident for bodily injury and Property Damage to the extent that CONTRACTOR will be using an automobile in relation to this contract.
- C. Admission to Oregon State Bar. At all times during the term of this contract CONTRACTOR shall maintain his admission to the Oregon State Bar Association as an active member.

- D. Amendments. The terms of this contract shall not be waived, altered, modified, supplemented or amended, in any manner whatsoever, except by written instrument signed by CONTRACTOR and HACC.
- E. Termination. This contract may be terminated by mutual consent of both parties, or by both party upon 30 days' notice, in writing and delivered by certified mail or in person.

HACC may terminate this contract effective immediately upon delivery of written notice to the CONTRACTOR, or at such later date as may be established by HACC, under any of the following conditions.

- a. If HACC funding from federal, state, or other sources is not obtained and continued at levels sufficient to allow for purchase of the indicated quantity of services. The contract may be modified to accommodate a reduction in funds.
- b. If federal or state regulations or guidelines are modified, changed, or interpreted in such a way that the services are no longer allowable or appropriate for purchase under this contract or are no longer eligible for the funding authorized by this contract.
- c. If any license or certificate required by law or regulation to be held by the CONTRACTOR to provide the services required by this contract is for any reason denied, revoked, or not renewed.
- d. If the CONTRACTOR fails to provide services called for by this contract within the time specified herein or any extension thereof; or
- e. If the CONTRACTOR fails to perform any of the other provisions of this contract, or so fails to pursue the work as to endanger performance of this contract in accordance with its terms, and after receipt of written notice from the HACC, fails to correct such failures within 10 days or such longer period as the HACC may authorize

Any such termination of this contract shall be without prejudice to any obligations or liabilities of either party already accrued prior to such termination.

The rights and remedies of the HACC provided in the above clause related to defaults (including breach of contract) by the CONTRACTOR shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this contract.

- F. Oregon Constitutional limitations. This contract is expressly subject to the debt limitations of Article XI, Section 10, of the Oregon Constitution and is conditioned on adequate funds being appropriated here for.
- G. Required Terms. Pursuant to ORS 279.13.220, 279B.230, and 279.235 and, the following terms and conditions are made a part of this contract:
 - 1. CONTRACTOR shall:
 - a. Make payments promptly, as due, to all persons supplying to CONTRACTOR labor or materials for the prosecution of the work provided for in this contract.
 - b. Pay all contributions or amounts due the Industrial Accident Fund from such CONTRACTOR or subcontractor incurred in the performance of this agreement

- c. Not permit any lien or claim to be filed or prosecuted against the HACC on account of any labor or material furnished.
 - d. Pay to the Department of Revenue all sums withheld from employees pursuant to ORS 316.167.
- 2. CONTRACTOR shall not allow anyone employed in the performance this contract to work for more than forty (40) hours in any one week, except in cases of necessity, emergency or where the public policy absolutely requires its, and in such cases, except in cases of contracts for personal services as defined in ORS 279A.055, the laborer shall be paid at least time and one-half pay for all overtime in excess of (40) hours a week and for work performed on Saturday and on any legal holiday provided by law.
 - 3. CONTRACTOR shall promptly, as due, make payment to any person or partnership, association or corporation furnishing medical, surgical and hospital care or other needed care and attention incident to sickness and injury to the employees of CONTRACTOR of all sums which CONTRACTOR collected or deducted from the wages of its employees pursuant to any law, contract or agreement for the purpose of providing or paying for such services.
 - 4. All subject employers working under this contract shall be either employers that will comply with ORS 656.017 (Workers' Compensation), or that are exempt under ORS 656.126,
- H. Future Support. The HACC makes no commitment of future support and assumes no obligation for future support of the activity contracted herein except as set forth in this contract.
 - I. Ownership of Work Product. All work products of the CONTRACTOR which result from this contract are the exclusive property of the HACC
 - J. Integration. This contract contains the entire agreement between the HACC and the CONTRACTOR and supersedes all prior written or oral discussions or agreements.

CONTRACTOR

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Signed on Behalf,
of

Jill Smith, Executive Director

Lobbying Certificate

The Undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of ANY Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with THIS Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit *Standard Form – LLL, “Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,”* in accordance with its instructions.
3. The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by Section 1352, Title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

NOTE: CONTRACTORS ARE REQUIRED, PURSUANT TO FEDERAL LAW, TO INCLUDE THE ABOVE LANGUAGE IN SUBCONTRACTS OVER \$100,000 AND TO OBTAIN THIS LOBBYING CERTIFICATE FROM EACH SUBCONTRACTOR BEING PAID \$100,000 OR MORE UNDER THIS CONTRACT.

Certification Regarding Debarment and Suspension

U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development

Certification A: Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters - Primary Covered Transactions

1. The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief that its principals;

a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal debarment or agency;

b. Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification, or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

c. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and

d. Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated for cause or default.

2. Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Instructions for Certification (A)

1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out below.

2. The inability of a person to provide the certification required below will not necessarily result in denial of participation in this covered transaction. The prospective participant shall submit an explanation of why it cannot provide the certification set out below. The certification or explanation will be considered in connection with the department or agency's determination whether to enter into this transaction. However, failure of the prospective primary participant to furnish a certification or an explanation shall disqualify such person from participation in this transaction.

3. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when the department or agency determined to enter into this transaction. If it is later determined that the prospective primary participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause of default.

4. The prospective primary participant shall provide immediate written notice to the department or agency to whom this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective primary participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

5. The terms **covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded**, as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the department or agency to which this proposal is being submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of these regulations.

6. The prospective primary participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency entering into this transaction.

7. The prospective primary participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transaction," provided by the department or agency entering into this covered transaction, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.

8. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines this eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the Nonprocurement List.

9. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

10. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph (6) of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause of default.

Certification B: Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions

1. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

2. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Instructions for Certification (B)

1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below.

2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

4. The terms **covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded**, as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of these regulations.

5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.

6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transaction," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.

7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the Nonprocurement List.

8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph (5) of these instructions, if a participant in a lower covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies including suspension and/or debarment.

Applicant		Date
Signature of Authorized Certifying Official		Title

Instructions to Offerors Non-Construction

U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development
Office of Public and Indian Housing

-03291 -

1. Preparation of Offers

(a) Offerors are expected to examine the statement of work, the proposed contract terms and conditions, and all instructions. Failure to do so will be at the offeror's risk.

(b) Each offerer shall furnish the information required by the solicitation. The offerer shall sign the offer and print or type its name on the cover sheet and each continuation sheet on which it makes an entry. Erasures or other changes must be initialed by the person signing the offer. Offers signed by an agent shall be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority, unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the HA.

(c) Offers for services other than those specified will not be considered.

2. Submission of Offers

(a) Offers and modifications thereof shall be submitted in sealed envelopes or packages (1) addressed to the office specified in the solicitation, and (2) showing the time specified for receipt, the solicitation number, and the name and address of the offerer.

(b) Telegraphic offers will not be considered unless authorized by the solicitation; however, offers may be modified by written or telegraph notice.

(c) Facsimile offers, modifications or withdrawals will not be considered unless authorized by the solicitation.

3. Amendments to Solicitations

(a) If this solicitation is amended, then all terms and conditions which are not modified remain unchanged.

(b) Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of any amendments to this solicitation by

- (1) signing and returning the amendment;
- (2) identifying the amendment number and date in the space provided for this purpose on the form for submitting an offer,
- (3) letter or telegram, or
- (4) facsimile, if facsimile offers are authorized in the solicitation. The HA/HUD must receive the acknowledgment by the time specified for receipt of offers.

4. Explanation to Prospective Offerors

Any prospective offeror desiring an explanation or interpretation of the solicitation, statement of work, etc., must request it in writing soon enough to allow a reply to reach all prospective offerors before the submission of their offers. Oral explanations or instructions given before the award of the contract will not be binding. Any information given to a prospective offeror concerning a solicitation will be furnished promptly to all other prospective offerors as an amendment of the solicitation, if that information is necessary in submitting offers or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective offerors.

5. Responsibility of Prospective Contractor

(a) The HA shall award a contract only to a responsible prospective contractor who is able to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed contract. To be determined responsible, a prospective contractor must -

- (1) Have adequate financial resources to perform the contract, or the ability to obtain them;

- (2) Have a satisfactory performance record;
- (3) Have a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics;
- (4) Have a satisfactory record of compliance with public policy (e.g., Equal Employment Opportunity); and
- (5) Not have been suspended, debarred, or otherwise determined to be ineligible for award of contracts by the Department of Housing and Urban Development or any other agency of the U.S. Government. Current lists of ineligible contractors are available for inspection at the HNHUDD.

(b) Before an offer is considered for award, the offerer may be requested by the HA to submit a statement or other documentation regarding any of the foregoing requirements. Failure by the offeror to provide such additional information may render the offerer ineligible for award.

6. Late Submissions, Modifications, and Withdrawal of Offers

(a) Any offer received at the place designated in the solicitation after the exact time specified for receipt will not be considered unless it is received before award is made and it -

- (1) Was sent by registered or certified mail not later than the fifth calendar day before the date specified for receipt of offers (e.g., an offer submitted in response to a solicitation requiring receipt of offers by the 20th of the month must have been mailed by the 15th);
- (2) Was sent by mail, or if authorized by the solicitation, was sent by telegram or via facsimile, and it is determined by the HA/ HUD that the late receipt was due solely to mishandling by the HA/ HUD after receipt at the HA;
- (3) Was sent by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Next Day Service® Post Office to Addressee, not later than 5:00 p.m. at the place of mailing two working days prior to the date specified for receipt of proposals. The term "Working days" excludes weekends and U.S. Federal holidays; or
- (4) Is the only offer received.

(b) Any modification of an offer, except a modification resulting from the HA's request for "best and final" offer (if this solicitation is a request for proposals), is subject to the same conditions as in subparagraphs (a)(1), (2), and (3) of this provision.

(c) A modification resulting from the HA's request for "best and final" offer received after the time and date specified in the request will not be considered unless received before award and the late receipt is due solely to mishandling by the HA after receipt at the HA.

(d) The only acceptable evidence to establish the date of mailing of a late offer, modification, or withdrawal sent either by registered or certified mail is the U.S. or Canadian Postal Service postmark both on the envelope or wrapper and on the original receipt from the U.S. or Canadian Postal Service. Both postmarks must show a legible date or the offer, modification, or withdrawal shall be processed as if mailed late. "Postmark" means a printed, stamped, or otherwise placed impression (exclusive of a postage meter machine impression) that is readily identifiable without further action as having been supplied and affixed by employees of the U.S. or Canadian Postal Service on the date of mailing. Therefore, offerors should request the postal clerk to place a hand cancellation bull's-eye postmark on both the receipt and the envelope or wrapper.

(e) The only acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt at the HA is the time/date stamp of HA on the offer wrapper or other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the HA.

(f) The only acceptable evidence to establish the date of mailing of a late offer, modification, or withdrawal sent by Express Mail Next Day Service-Post Office to Addressee is the date entered by the post office receiving clerk on the "Express Mail Next Day Service-Post Office to Addressee" label and the postmark on both the envelope or wrapper and on the original receipt from the U.S. Postal Service. "Postmark" has the same meaning as defined in paragraph (c) of this provision, excluding postmarks of the Canadian Postal Service. Therefore, offerors should request the postal clerk to place a legible hand cancellation bull's eye postmark on both the receipt and the envelope or wrapper.

(g) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this provision, a late modification of an otherwise successful offer that makes its terms more favorable to the HA will be considered at any time it is received and may be accepted.

(h) If this solicitation is a request for proposals, proposals *may* be withdrawn by written notice, or if authorized by this solicitation, by telegram (including mailgram) or facsimile machine transmission received at any time before award. Proposals may be withdrawn in person by a offeror or its authorized representative if the identity of the person requesting withdrawal is established and the person signs a receipt for the offer before award. If this solicitation is an Invitation for bids, bids may be withdrawn at any time prior to bid opening.

7. Contract Award

(a) The HA will award a contract resulting from this solicitation to the responsible offeror whose offer conforming to the solicitation will be most advantageous to the HA, cost or price and other factors, specified elsewhere in this solicitation, considered.

(b) The HA may

- (1) reject any or all offers if such action is in the HA's interest,
- (2) accept other than the lowest offer,
- (3) waive informalities and minor irregularities in offers received, and (4) award more than one contract for all or part of the requirements stated.

(c) If this solicitation is a request for proposals, the HA may award a contract on the basis of initial offers received, without discussions. Therefore, each initial offer should contain the offeror's best terms from a cost or price and technical standpoint.

(d) A written award or acceptance of offer mailed or otherwise furnished to the successful offeror within the time for acceptance specified in the offer shall result in a binding contract without further action by either party. If this solicitation is a request for proposals, before the offeror's specified expiration time, the HA may accept an offer, whether or not there are negotiations after its receipt, unless a written notice of withdrawal is received before award. Negotiations conducted after receipt of an offer do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by the HA.

(e) Neither financial data submitted with an offer, nor representations concerning facilities or financing, will form a part of the resulting contract.

8. Service of Protest

Any protest against the award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation shall be served on the HA by obtaining written and dated acknowledgment of receipt from the HA at the address shown on the cover of this solicitation. The determination of the HA with regard to such protest or to proceed to award notwithstanding such protest shall be final unless appealed by the protester.

9. Offer Submission

Offers shall be submitted as follows and shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope and addressed to the office specified in the solicitation. The proposal shall show **the hour and date specified in the solicitation for receipt, the solicitation number, and the name and address of the offeror, on the face of the envelope.**

It is very important that the offer be properly identified on the face of the envelope as set forth above in order to insure that the date and time of receipt is stamped on the face of the offer envelope. Receiving procedures are: date and time stamp those envelopes identified as proposals and deliver them immediately to the appropriate contracting official, and only date stamp those envelopes which do not contain identification of the contents and deliver them to the appropriate procuring activity only through the routine mail delivery procedure.

[Describe bid or proposal preparation instructions here:]

Certifications and Representations of Offerors

Non-Construction Contract

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Public and Indian Housing

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

This form includes clauses required by OMB's common rule on bidding/offering procedures, implemented by HUD in 24 CFR 85.36, and those requirements set forth in Executive Order 11625 for small, minority, women-owned businesses, and certifications for independent price determination, and conflict of interest. The form is required for nonconstruction contracts awarded by Housing Agencies (HAs). The form is used by bidders/offerors to certify to the HA's Contracting Officer for contract compliance. If the form were not used, HAs would be unable to enforce their contracts. Responses to the collection of information are required to obtain a benefit or to retain a benefit. The information requested does not lend itself to confidentiality.

1. Contingent Fee Representation and Agreement

(a) The bidder/offeror represents and certifies as part of its bid/offer that, except for full-time bona fide employees working solely for the bidder/offeror, the bidder/offeror:

- (1) has, has not employed or retained any person or company to solicit or obtain this contract; and
- (2) has, has not paid or agreed to pay to any person or company employed or retained to solicit or obtain this contract any commission, percentage, brokerage, or other fee contingent upon or resulting from the award of this contract.

(b) If the answer to either (a)(1) or (a) (2) above is affirmative, the bidder/offeror shall make an immediate and full written disclosure to the PHA Contracting Officer.

(c) Any misrepresentation by the bidder/offeror shall give the PHA the right to (1) terminate the resultant contract; (2) at its discretion, to deduct from contract payments the amount of any commission, percentage, brokerage, or other contingent fee; or (3) take other remedy pursuant to the contract.

2. Small, Minority, Women-Owned Business Concern Representation

The bidder/offeror represents and certifies as part of its bid/offer that it:

- (a) **Dis, Dis** not a small business concern. "Small business concern," as used in this provision, means a concern, including its affiliates, that is independently owned and operated, not dominant in the field of operation in which it is bidding, and qualified as a small business under the criteria and size standards in 13 CFR 121.
- (b) **Dis, Dis** not a women-owned small business concern. "Women-owned," as used in this provision, means a small business that is at least 51 percent owned by a woman or women who are U.S. citizens and who also control and operate the business.
- (c) **Dis, Dis** not a minority enterprise which, pursuant to Executive Order 11625, is defined as a business which is at least 51 percent owned by one or more minority group members or, in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of its voting stock is owned by one or more minority group members, and whose management and daily operations are controlled by one or more such individuals.

For the purpose of this definition, minority group members are:

(Check the block applicable to you)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Americans | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Pacific Americans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic Americans | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian Americans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native Americans | <input type="checkbox"/> Hasidic Jewish Americans |

3. Certificate of Independent Price Determination

(a) The bidder/offeror certifies that-

- (1) The prices in this bid/offer have been arrived at independently, without, for the purpose of restricting competition, any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other bidder/offeror or competitor relating to (i) those prices, (ii) the intention to submit a bid/offer, or (iii) the methods or factors used to calculate the prices offered;
- (2) The prices in this bid/offer have not been and will not be knowingly disclosed by the bidder/offeror, directly or indirectly, to any other bidder/offeror or competitor before bid opening (in the case of a sealed bid solicitation) or contract award (in the case of a negotiated solicitation) unless otherwise required by law; and
- (3) No attempt has been made or will be made by the bidder/offeror to induce any other concern to submit or not to submit a bid/offer for the purpose of restricting competition.

(b) Each signature on the bid/offer is considered to be a certification by the signatory that the signatory:

- (1) Is the person in the bidder/offeror's organization responsible for determining the prices being offered in this bid or proposal, and that the signatory has not participated and will not participate in any action contrary to subparagraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) above; or
- (2) (i) Has been authorized, in writing, to act as agent for the following principals in certifying that those principals have not participated, and will not participate in any action contrary to subparagraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) above (insert full name of person(s) in the bidder/offeror's organization responsible for determining the prices offered in this bid or proposal, and the title of his or her position in the bidder/offeror's organization);
(ii) As an authorized agent, does certify that the principals named in subdivision (b)(2)(i) above have not participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to subparagraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) above; and

- (iii) As an agent, has not personally participated, and will not participate in any action contrary to subparagraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) above.
- (c) If the bidder/offeror deletes or modifies subparagraph (a)2 above, the bidder/offeror must furnish with its bid/offer a signed statement setting forth in detail the circumstances of the disclosure.

4. Organizational Conflicts of Interest Certification

- (a) The Contractor warrants that to the best of its knowledge and belief and except as otherwise disclosed, it does not have any organizational conflict of interest which is defined as a situation in which the nature of work under a proposed contract and a prospective contractor's organizational, financial, contractual or other interest are such that:
 - (i) Award of the contract may result in an unfair competitive advantage;
 - (ii) The Contractor's objectivity in performing the contract work may be impaired; or
 - (iii) That the Contractor has disclosed all relevant information and requested the HA to make a determination with respect to this Contract.
- (b) The Contractor agrees that if after award he or she discovers an organizational conflict of interest with respect to this contract, he or she shall make an immediate and full disclosure in writing to the HA which shall include a description of the action which the Contractor has taken or intends to eliminate or neutralize the conflict. The HA may, however, terminate the Contract for the convenience of HA if it would be in the best interest of HA.
- (c) In the event the Contractor was aware of an organizational conflict of interest before the award of this Contract and intentionally did not disclose the conflict to the HA, the HA may terminate the Contract for default.
- (d) The Contractor shall require a disclosure or representation from subcontractors and consultants who may be in a position to influence the advice or assistance rendered to the HA and shall include any necessary provisions to eliminate or neutralize conflicts of interest in consultant agreements or subcontracts involving performance or work under this Contract.

6. Conflict of Interest

In the absence of any actual or apparent conflict, the offeror, by submission of a proposal, hereby warrants that to the best of its knowledge and belief, no actual or apparent conflict of interest exists with regard to my possible performance of this procurement, as described in the clause in this solicitation titled "Organizational Conflict of Interest."

7. Offeror's Signature

The offeror hereby certifies that the information contained in these certifications and representations is accurate, complete, and current.

Signature & Date:

Typed or Printed Name:

Title:

5. Authorized Negotiators (RFPs only)

The offeror represents that the following persons are authorized to negotiate on its behalf with the PHA in connection with this request for proposals: (list names, titles, and telephone numbers of the authorized negotiators):

General Conditions for Non-Construction

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

Contracts

Development

Section I – (With or without Maintenance Work)

Office of Public and Indian Housing
Office of Labor Relations

OMB Approval No. 2577-0157 (exp. 1/31/2017)

Public Reporting Burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.08 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Reports Management Officer, Office of Information Policies and Systems, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C. 20410-3600; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (2577-0157), Washington, D.C. 20503. Do not send this completed form to either of these addressees.

Applicability. This form HUD-5370-C has 2 Sections. These Sections must be inserted into non-construction contracts as described below:

- 1) **Non-construction contracts** (*without* maintenance) **greater than \$100,000 - use Section I;**
- 2) **Maintenance contracts** (including nonroutine maintenance as defined at 24 CFR 968.105) **greater than \$2,000 but not more than \$100,000 - use Section II;** and
- 3) **Maintenance contracts** (including nonroutine maintenance), **greater than \$100,000 – use Sections I and II.**

Section I - Clauses for All Non-Construction Contracts greater than \$100,000

1. Definitions

The following definitions are applicable to this contract:

- (a) "Authority or Housing Authority (HA)" means the Housing Authority.
- (b) "Contract" means the contract entered into between the Authority and the Contractor. It includes the contract form, the Certifications and Representations, these contract clauses, and the scope of work. It includes all formal changes to any of those documents by addendum, Change Order, or other modification.
- (c) "Contractor" means the person or other entity entering into the contract with the Authority to perform all of the work required under the contract.
- (d) "Day" means calendar days, unless otherwise stated.
- (e) "HUD" means the Secretary of Housing and Urban development, his delegates, successors, and assigns, and the officers and employees of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development acting for and on behalf of the Secretary.

2. Changes

- (a) The HA may at any time, by written order, and without notice to the sureties, if any, make changes within the general scope of this contract in the services to be performed or supplies to be delivered.
- (b) If any such change causes an increase or decrease in the hourly rate, the not-to-exceed amount of the contract, or the time required for performance of any part of the work under this contract, whether or not changed by the order, or otherwise affects the conditions of this contract, the HA shall make an equitable adjustment in the not-to-exceed amount, the hourly rate, the delivery schedule, or other affected terms, and shall modify the contract accordingly.
- (c) The Contractor must assert its right to an equitable adjustment under this clause within 30 days from the date of receipt of the written order. However, if the HA decides that the facts justify it, the HA may receive and act upon a

- proposal submitted before final payment of the contract.
- (d) Failure to agree to any adjustment shall be a dispute under clause Disputes, herein. However, nothing in this clause shall excuse the Contractor from proceeding with the contract as changed.
 - (e) No services for which an additional cost or fee will be charged by the Contractor shall be furnished without the prior written consent of the HA.

3. Termination for Convenience and Default

- (a) The HA may terminate this contract in whole, or from time to time in part, for the HA's convenience or the failure of the Contractor to fulfill the contract obligations (default). The HA shall terminate by delivering to the Contractor a written Notice of Termination specifying the nature, extent, and effective date of the termination. Upon receipt of the notice, the Contractor shall: (i) immediately discontinue all services affected (unless the notice directs otherwise); and (ii) deliver to the HA all information, reports, papers, and other materials accumulated or generated in performing this contract, whether completed or in process.
- (b) If the termination is for the convenience of the HA, the HA shall be liable only for payment for services rendered before the effective date of the termination.
- (c) If the termination is due to the failure of the Contractor to fulfill its obligations under the contract (default), the HA may (i) require the Contractor to deliver to it, in the manner and to the extent directed by the HA, any work as described in subparagraph (a)(ii) above, and compensation be determined in accordance with the Changes clause, paragraph 2, above; (ii) take over the work and prosecute the same to completion by contract or otherwise, and the Contractor shall be liable for any additional cost incurred by the HA; (iii) withhold any payments to the Contractor, for the purpose of off-set or partial payment, as the case may be, of amounts owed to the HA by the Contractor.
- (d) If, after termination for failure to fulfill contract obligations (default), it is determined that the Contractor had not failed, the termination shall be deemed to have been effected for the convenience of the HA, and the Contractor shall be entitled to payment as described in paragraph (b) above.
- (e) Any disputes with regard to this clause are expressly made subject to the terms of clause titled Disputes herein.

4. Examination and Retention of Contractor's Records

- (a) The HA, HUD, or Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives shall, until 3 years after final payment under this contract, have access to and the right to examine any of the Contractor's directly pertinent books, documents, papers, or other records involving transactions related to this contract for the purpose of making audit, examination, excerpts, and transcriptions.

- (b) The Contractor agrees to include in first-tier subcontracts under this contract a clause substantially the same as paragraph (a) above. "Subcontract," as used in this clause, excludes purchase orders not exceeding \$10,000.
- (c) The periods of access and examination in paragraphs (a) and (b) above for records relating to:
 - (i) appeals under the clause titled Disputes;
 - (ii) litigation or settlement of claims arising from the performance of this contract; or,
 - (iii) costs and expenses of this contract to which the HA, HUD, or Comptroller General or any of their duly authorized representatives has taken exception shall continue until disposition of such appeals, litigation, claims, or exceptions.

A breach of these Contract clauses may be grounds for termination of the Contract and for debarment or denial of participation in HUD programs as a Contractor and a subcontractor as provided in 24 CFR Part 24.

5. Rights in Data (Ownership and Proprietary Interest)

The HA shall have exclusive ownership of, all proprietary interest in, and the right to full and exclusive possession of all information, materials and documents discovered or produced by Contractor pursuant to the terms of this Contract, including but not limited to reports, memoranda or letters concerning the research and reporting tasks of this Contract.

6. Energy Efficiency

The contractor shall comply with all mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency which are contained in the energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (Pub.L. 94-163) for the State in which the work under this contract is performed.

7. Disputes

- (a) All disputes arising under or relating to this contract, except for disputes arising under clauses contained in Section III, Labor Standards Provisions, including any claims for damages for the alleged breach there of which are not disposed of by agreement, shall be resolved under this clause.
- (b) All claims by the Contractor shall be made in writing and submitted to the HA. A claim by the HA against the Contractor shall be subject to a written decision by the HA.
- (c) The HA shall, with reasonable promptness, but in no event in no more than 60 days, render a decision concerning any claim hereunder. Unless the Contractor, within 30 days after receipt of the HA's decision, shall notify the HA in writing that it takes exception to such decision, the decision shall be final and conclusive.
- (d) Provided the Contractor has (i) given the notice within the time stated in paragraph (c) above, and (ii) excepted its claim relating to such decision from the final release, and (iii) brought suit against the HA not later than one year after receipt of final payment, or if final payment has not been made, not later than one year after the Contractor has had a reasonable time to respond to a written request by the HA that it submit a final voucher and release, whichever is earlier, then the HA's decision shall not be final or conclusive, but the dispute shall be determined on the merits by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (e) The Contractor shall proceed diligently with performance of this contract, pending final resolution of any request for relief, claim, appeal, or action arising under the contract, and comply with any decision of the HA.

8. Contract Termination; Debarment

9. Assignment of Contract

The Contractor shall not assign or transfer any interest in this contract; except that claims for monies due or to become due from the HA under the contract may be assigned to a bank, trust company, or other financial institution. If the Contractor is a partnership, this contract shall inure to the benefit of the surviving or remaining member(s) of such partnership approved by the HA.

10. Certificate and Release

Prior to final payment under this contract, or prior to settlement upon termination of this contract, and as a condition precedent thereto, the Contractor shall execute and deliver to the HA a certificate and release, in a form acceptable to the HA, of all claims against the HA by the Contractor under and by virtue of this contract, other than such claims, if any, as may be specifically excepted by the Contractor in stated amounts set forth therein.

11. Organizational Conflicts of Interest

- (a) The Contractor warrants that to the best of its knowledge and belief and except as otherwise disclosed, it does not have any organizational conflict of interest which is defined as a situation in which the nature of work under this contract and a contractor's organizational, financial, contractual or other interests are such that:
 - (i) Award of the contract may result in an unfair competitive advantage; or
 - (ii) The Contractor's objectivity in performing the contract work may be impaired.
- (b) The Contractor agrees that if after award it discovers an organizational conflict of interest with respect to this contract or any task/delivery order under the contract, he or she shall make an immediate and full disclosure in writing to the Contracting Officer which shall include a description of the action which the Contractor has taken or intends to take to eliminate or neutralize the conflict. The HA may, however, terminate the contract or task/delivery order for the convenience of the HA if it would be in the best interest of the HA.
- (c) In the event the Contractor was aware of an organizational conflict of interest before the award of this contract and intentionally did not disclose the conflict to the Contracting Officer, the HA may terminate the contract for default.
- (d) The terms of this clause shall be included in all subcontracts and consulting agreements wherein the work to be performed is similar to the service provided by the prime Contractor. The Contractor shall include in such subcontracts and consulting agreements any necessary provisions to eliminate or neutralize conflicts of interest.

12. Inspection and Acceptance

- (a) The HA has the right to review, require correction, if necessary, and accept the work products produced by the Contractor. Such review(s) shall be carried out within 30 days so as to not impede the work of the Contractor. Any

product of work shall be deemed accepted as submitted if the HA does not issue written comments and/or required corrections within 30 days from the date of receipt of such product from the Contractor.

- (b) The Contractor shall make any required corrections promptly at no additional charge and return a revised copy of the product to the HA within 7 days of notification or a later date if extended by the HA.
- (c) Failure by the Contractor to proceed with reasonable promptness to make necessary corrections shall be a default. If the Contractor's submission of corrected work remains unacceptable, the HA may terminate this contract (or the task order involved) or reduce the contract price or cost to reflect the reduced value of services received.

13. Interest of Members of Congress

No member of or delegate to the Congress of the United States of America or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this contract or to any benefit to arise there from, but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this contract if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

14. Interest of Members, Officers, or Employees and Former Members, Officers, or Employees

No member, officer, or employee of the HA, no member of the governing body of the locality in which the project is situated, no member of the governing body in which the HA was activated, and no other public official of such locality or localities who exercises any functions or responsibilities with respect to the project, shall, during his or her tenure, or for one year thereafter, have any interest, direct or indirect, in this contract or the proceeds thereof.

15. Limitation on Payments to Influence Certain Federal Transactions

(a) Definitions. As used in this clause:

"Agency", as defined in 5 U.S.C. 552(f), includes Federal executive departments and agencies as well as independent regulatory commissions and Government corporations, as defined in 31 U.S.C. 9101(1).

"Covered Federal Action" means any of the following Federal actions:

- (i) The awarding of any Federal contract;
- (ii) The making of any Federal grant;
- (iii) The making of any Federal loan;
- (iv) The entering into of any cooperative agreement; and,
- (v) The extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

Covered Federal action does not include receiving from an agency a commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan.

"Indian tribe" and "tribal organization" have the meaning provided in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450B). Alaskan Natives are included under the definitions of Indian tribes in that Act.

"Influencing or attempting to influence" means making, with the intent to influence, any communication to or appearance before an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with any covered Federal action.

"Local government" means a unit of government in a State and, if chartered, established, or otherwise recognized by a State for the performance of a governmental duty, including a local public authority, a special district, an intrastate district, a council of governments, a sponsor group representative organization, and any other instrumentality of a local government.

"Officer or employee of an agency" includes the following individuals who are employed by an agency:

- (i) An individual who is appointed to a position in the Government under title 5, U.S.C., including a position under a temporary appointment;
- (ii) A member of the uniformed services as defined in section 202, title 18, U.S.C.;
- (iii) A special Government employee as defined in section 202, title 18, U.S.C.; and,
- (i) An individual who is a member of a Federal advisory committee, as defined by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, title 5, appendix 2.

"Person" means an individual, corporation, company, association, authority, firm, partnership, society, State, and local government, regardless of whether such entity is operated for profit or not for profit. This term excludes an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or other Indian organization with respect to expenditures specifically permitted by other Federal law.

"Recipient" includes all contractors, subcontractors at any tier, and subgrantees at any tier of the recipient of funds received in connection with a Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement. The term excludes an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or any other Indian organization with respect to expenditures specifically permitted by other Federal law.

"Regularly employed means, with respect to an officer or employee of a person requesting or receiving a Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, an officer or employee who is employed by such person for at least 130 working days within one year immediately preceding the date of the submission that initiates agency consideration of such person for receipt of such contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement. An officer or employee who is employed by such person for less than 130 working days within one year immediately preceding the date of submission that initiates agency consideration of such person shall be considered to be regularly employed as soon as he or she is employed by such person for 130 working days.

"State" means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a territory or possession of the United States, an agency or instrumentality of a State, and a multi-State, regional, or interstate entity having governmental duties and powers.

(b) Prohibition.

- (i) Section 1352 of title 31, U.S.C. provides in part that no appropriated funds may be expended by the recipient of a Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement to pay any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with any of the following covered Federal actions: the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

- (ii) The prohibition does not apply as follows:

(1) Agency and legislative liaison by Own Employees.

(a) The prohibition on the use of appropriated funds, in Paragraph (i) of this section, does not apply in the case of a payment of reasonable compensation made to an officer or employee of a person requesting or receiving a Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, if the payment is for agency and legislative activities not directly related to a covered Federal action.

(b) For purposes of paragraph (b)(i)(1)(a) of this clause, providing any information specifically requested by an agency or Congress is permitted at any time.

(c) The following agency and legislative liaison activities are permitted at any time only where they are not related to a specific solicitation for any covered Federal action:

(1) Discussing with an agency (including individual demonstrations) the qualities and characteristics of the person's products or services, conditions or terms of sale, and service capabilities; and,

(2) Technical discussions and other activities regarding the application or adaptation of the person's products or services for an agency's use.

(d) The following agency and legislative liaison activities are permitted where they are prior to formal solicitation of any covered Federal action:

(1) Providing any information not specifically requested but necessary for an agency to make an informed decision about initiation of a covered Federal action;

(2) Technical discussions regarding the preparation of an unsolicited proposal prior to its official submission; and

(3) Capability presentations by persons seeking awards from an agency pursuant to the provisions of the Small Business Act, as amended by Public Law 95-507 and other subsequent amendments.

(e) Only those activities expressly authorized by subdivision (b)(ii)(1)(a) of this clause are permitted under this clause.

(2) Professional and technical services.

(a) The prohibition on the use of appropriated funds, in subparagraph (b)(i) of this clause, does not apply in the case of-

(i) A payment of reasonable compensation made to an officer or employee of a person requesting or receiving a covered Federal action or an extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of a covered Federal action, if payment is for professional or technical services rendered directly in the preparation, submission, or negotiation of any bid, proposal, or application for that Federal action or for meeting requirements imposed by or pursuant to law as a condition for receiving that Federal action.

(ii) Any reasonable payment to a person, other than an officer or employee of a

person requesting or receiving a covered Federal action or an extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of a covered Federal action if the payment is for professional or technical services rendered directly in the preparation, submission, or negotiation of any bid, proposal, or application for that Federal action or for meeting requirements imposed by or pursuant to law as a condition for receiving that Federal action. Persons other than officers or employees of a person requesting or receiving a covered Federal action include consultants and trade associations.

(b) For purposes of subdivision (b)(ii)(2)(a) of clause, "professional and technical services" shall be limited to advice and analysis directly applying any professional or technical discipline.

(c) Requirements imposed by or pursuant to law as a condition for receiving a covered Federal award include those required by law or regulation, or reasonably expected to be required by law or regulation, and any other requirements in the actual award documents.

(d) Only those services expressly authorized by subdivisions (b)(ii)(2)(a)(i) and (ii) of this section are permitted under this clause.

(iii) Selling activities by independent sales representatives.

(c) The prohibition on the use of appropriated funds, in subparagraph (b)(i) of this clause, does not apply to the following selling activities before an agency by independent sales representatives, provided such activities are prior to formal solicitation by an agency and are specifically limited to the merits of the matter:

(i) Discussing with an agency (including individual demonstration) the qualities and characteristics of the person's products or services, conditions or terms of sale, and service capabilities; and

(ii) Technical discussions and other activities regarding the application or adaptation of the person's products or services for an agency's use.

(d) Agreement. In accepting any contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or loan resulting from this solicitation, the person submitting the offer agrees not to make any payment prohibited by this clause.

(e) Penalties. Any person who makes an expenditure prohibited under paragraph (b) of this clause shall be subject to civil penalties as provided for by 31 U.S.C. 1352. An imposition of a civil penalty does not prevent the Government from seeking any other remedy that may be applicable.

(f) Cost Allowability. Nothing in this clause is to be interpreted to make allowable or reasonable any costs which would be unallowable or unreasonable in accordance with Part 31 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), or OMB Circulars dealing with cost allowability for recipients of assistance agreements. Conversely, costs made specifically unallowable by the requirements in this clause will not be made allowable under any of the provisions of FAR Part 31 or the relevant OMB Circulars.

16. Equal Employment Opportunity

During the performance of this contract, the Contractor agrees as follows:

- (a) The Contractor shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- (b) The Contractor shall take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to (1) employment; (2) upgrading; (3) demotion; (4) transfer; (5) recruitment or recruitment advertising; (6) layoff or termination; (7) rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and (8) selection for training, including apprenticeship.
- (c) The Contractor shall post in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment the notices to be provided by the Contracting Officer that explain this clause.
- (d) The Contractor shall, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- (e) The Contractor shall send, to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, the notice to be provided by the Contracting Officer advising the labor union or workers' representative of the Contractor's commitments under this clause, and post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.
- (f) The Contractor shall comply with Executive Order 11246, as amended, and the rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor.
- (g) The Contractor shall furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order 11246, as amended and by rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto. The Contractor shall permit access to its books, records, and accounts by the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.
- (h) In the event of a determination that the Contractor is not in compliance with this clause or any rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, this contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part, and the Contractor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts, or federally assisted construction contracts under the procedures authorized in Executive Order 11246, as amended. In addition, sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked against the Contractor as provided in Executive Order 11246, as amended, the rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.
- (i) The Contractor shall include the terms and conditions of this clause in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by the rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued under Executive Order 11246, as amended, so that these terms and conditions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any subcontractor or purchase order as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development or the Secretary of Labor may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance; provided that if the

Contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction, the Contractor may request the United States to enter into the litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

17. Dissemination or Disclosure of Information

No information or material shall be disseminated or disclosed to the general public, the news media, or any person or organization without prior express written approval by the HA.

18. Contractor's Status

It is understood that the Contractor is an independent contractor and is not to be considered an employee of the HA, or assume any right, privilege or duties of an employee, and shall save harmless the HA and its employees from claims suits, actions and costs of every description resulting from the Contractor's activities on behalf of the HA in connection with this Agreement.

19. Other Contractors

HA may undertake or award other contracts for additional work at or near the site(s) of the work under this contract. The contractor shall fully cooperate with the other contractors and with HA and HUD employees and shall carefully adapt scheduling and performing the work under this contract to accommodate the additional work, heeding any direction that may be provided by the Contracting Officer. The contractor shall not commit or permit any act that will interfere with the performance of work by any other contractor or HA employee.

20. Liens

The Contractor is prohibited from placing a lien on HA's property. This prohibition shall apply to all subcontractors.

21. Training and Employment Opportunities for Residents in the Project Area (Section 3, HUD Act of 1968; 24 CFR 135)

- (a) The work to be performed under this contract is subject to the requirements of section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 1701u (section 3). The purpose of section 3 is to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by HUD assistance or HUD-assisted projects covered by section 3, shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be directed to low- and very low-income persons, particularly persons who are recipients of HUD assistance for housing.
- (b) The parties to this contract agree to comply with HUD's regulations in 24 CFR Part 135, which implement section 3. As evidenced by their execution of this contract, the parties to this contract certify that they are under no contractual or other impediment that would prevent them from complying with the Part 135 regulations.
- (c) The contractor agrees to send to each labor organization or representative of workers with which the contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other understanding, if any, a notice advising the labor organization or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this section 3 clause, and will post copies of the notice in conspicuous places at the work site where both employees and applicants for training and employment positions can see the notice. The notice shall describe the section 3 preference, shall set forth minimum number and job titles subject to hire, availability of

apprenticeship and training positions, the qualifications for each; and the name and location of the person(s) taking applications for each of the positions; and the anticipated date the work shall begin.

- (d) The contractor agrees to include this section 3 clause in every subcontract subject to compliance with regulations in 24 CFR Part 135, and agrees to take appropriate action, as provided in an applicable provision of the subcontract or in this section 3 clause, upon a finding that the subcontractor is in violation of the regulations in 24 CFR Part 135. The contractor will not subcontract with any subcontractor where the contractor has notice or knowledge that the subcontractor has been found in violation of the regulations in 24 CFR Part 135.
- (e) The contractor will certify that any vacant employment positions, including training positions, that are filled (1) after the contractor is selected but before the contract is executed, and (2) with persons other than those to whom the regulations of 24 CFR Part 135 require employment opportunities to be directed, were not filled to circumvent the contractor's obligations under 24 CFR Part 135.
- (f) Noncompliance with HUD's regulations in 24 CFR Part 135 may result in sanctions, termination of this contract for default, and debarment or suspension from future HUD assisted contracts.

22. Procurement of Recovered Materials

- (a) In accordance with Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Contractor shall procure items designated in guidelines of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at 40 CFR Part 247 that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition. The Contractor shall procure items designated in the EPA guidelines that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable unless the Contractor determines that such items: (1) are not reasonably available in a reasonable period of time; (2) fail to meet reasonable performance standards, which shall be determined on the basis of the guidelines of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, if applicable to the item; or (3) are only available at an unreasonable price.
- (b) Paragraph (a) of this clause shall apply to items purchased under this contract where: (1) the Contractor purchases in excess of \$10,000 of the item under this contract; or (2) during the preceding Federal fiscal year, the Contractor: (i) purchased any amount of the items for use under a contract that was funded with Federal appropriations and was with a Federal agency or a State agency or agency of a political subdivision of a State; and (ii) purchased a total of in excess of \$10,000 of the item both under and outside that contract.