



## Attachment A RFP TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This RFP and Offeror's participation therein is subject to the following terms and conditions:

### I. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Amendment** means a document issued to supplement the original solicitation document.
- B. **Authority** means the State Fiscal Accountability Authority or its successor in interest.
- C. **Award** or **award** means the identification of Offerors eligible to execute a Master Agreement following completion of the Multistate Sourcing Team's evaluation.
- D. **Business** means any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietorship, joint stock company, joint venture, or any other legal entity. [11-35-310(3)]
- E. **Change Order** means any written alteration in specifications, delivery point, rate of delivery, period of performance, price, quantity, or other provisions of any contract accomplished by mutual agreement of the parties to the contract. [11-35-310(4)]
- F. **Confidential Information** means any and all information in any form that is marked as confidential or would by its nature be deemed confidential and is obtained by Offeror in connection with this RFP, including but not limited to the data or records of the Lead State, the Multistate Sourcing Team, NASPO, or NASPO ValuePoint.
- G. **Contract Modification** means a written order signed by the procurement officer, directing the contractor to make changes which the clause of the contract titled "Changes," if included herein, authorizes the Procurement Officer to order without the consent of the contractor. [11-35-310(9)]
- H. **Contractor** means an Offeror with whom the Lead State executes a Master Agreement resulting from this RFP.
- I. **Cover Page** means the top page of the original solicitation on which the solicitation is identified by number. Offerors are cautioned that Amendments may modify information provided on the Cover Page.
- J. **Day** means a calendar day, unless otherwise indicated.
- K. **Deliverable** means a good, product, service, solution, result, labor, or other effort being sought through this RFP.
- L. **Interested State** means a state that has requested to be identified as a potential Participating Entity in this RFP.
- M. **Lead State** means the State issuing this RFP.
- N. **Master Agreement** means a contract, resulting from this RFP, that is executed by and between a successful Offeror and the Lead State, acting in collaboration with NASPO ValuePoint.
- O. **Multistate Sourcing Team** means the group of individuals assisting the Lead State with solicitation and contracting activities, which may include but are not limited to development of this RFP, evaluation of proposals, negotiation of Master Agreements, and evaluation of Contractor performance.
- P. **NASPO** means the National Association of State Procurement Officials.
- Q. **NASPO ValuePoint** means the cooperative contracting division of NASPO.
- R. **Offer** means the bid or proposal submitted in response to this solicitation. The terms Bid and Proposal are used interchangeably with the term Offer.
- S. **Offeror** means an entity or individual submitting a proposal in response to this RFP.
- T. **Order** means a purchase order, sales order, agreement, or other document used by a Purchasing Entity to commit funds in exchange for a Contractor's delivery of one or more Deliverables.
- U. **Page Two** means the second page of the original solicitation, which is labeled Page Two.



- V. Participating Addendum** means a contract, referencing a Master Agreement, that is executed by and between a Contractor and a Participating Entity and may include Participating Entity-specific requirements and terms.
- W. Participating Entity** means a state, or another entity authorized to enter into a Participating Addendum, that executes a Participating Addendum with a Contractor.
- X. Procurement Officer** means the person, or his successor, identified as such on either the Cover Page, an amendment, or an award notice.
- Y. Proposal** or **proposal** means the document(s), data, information, and other media submitted by an Offeror in response to this RFP, including information submitted directly through the RFP Website and information submitted after the RFP Close Date at the request of the Lead State.
- Z. Purchasing Entity** means a state, or another entity authorized to use a Participating Addendum, that issues an Order under a Master Agreement resulting from this RFP through a Participating Entity's Participating Addendum.
- AA. RFP** means this request for proposals, including all attachments and exhibits and any information posted by the Lead State to the RFP Website, as amended.
- BB. RFP Close Date** means the date and time identified in Section II.D.4 of the RFP Overview.
- CC. RFP Contact** means the individual identified in Section II.A of the RFP Overview.
- DD. RFP Open Date** means the date and time identified in Section II.D.1 of the RFP Overview.
- EE. RFP Q&A Deadline** means the date and time identified in Section II.D.3 of the RFP Overview.
- FF. RFP Website** means the website identified in Section II.B of the RFP Overview.
- GG. Solicitation Number** means the number identified on the cover page of the RFP Overview and in the header of each attachment to this RFP.
- HH. You and Your** means Offeror.
- II. Solicitation** means this document, including all its parts, attachments, and any Amendments.
- JJ. Subcontractor** means any person you contract with to perform or provide any part of the work.
- KK. Us or We** means the Using Governmental Unit.
- LL. Using Governmental Unit** means the unit(s) of government identified as such on the Cover Page. If the Cover Page identifies the Using Governmental Unit as "Statewide Term Contract," the phrase "Using Governmental Unit" means any South Carolina Public Procurement Unit [11-35-4610(5)] that has submitted a Purchase Order to you pursuant to the contract resulting from this solicitation. Reference the clauses titled "Purchase Orders" and "Statewide Term Contract."
- MM. Work** means all labor, materials, equipment, services, or property of any type, provided or to be provided by the Contractor to fulfill the Contractor's obligations under the Contract.

## **II. GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE**

- A.** This RFP and Offeror's participation in it is governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Lead State.
- B.** Unless otherwise specified in this RFP, the venue for any protest, claim, dispute, or action relating to this RFP, including evaluation and award, is in the state serving as the Lead State.
- C.** Any claim relating to this RFP brought in a federal forum must be brought and adjudicated solely and exclusively within the United States District Court for the Lead State.
- D.** Offeror and Offeror's participation in this this RFP must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and policies.
- E.** All Deliverables proposed by Offeror must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and policies.

## **III. RFP DOCUMENTS**

- A. RFP Website.**



1. The RFP Website is the sole source for official RFP documents and updates. The Lead State may, but is under no obligation to, notify Offeror of updates to the RFP Website, including the posting of RFP amendments.
2. Documents from this RFP may be posted on multiple websites, including non-Lead State procurement solicitation boards and the NASPO ValuePoint website, or distributed through other channels, such as email. Such distribution is for advertising and informational purposes only, and documents and information from sources other than the RFP Website should not be relied upon to develop or submit a proposal. Proposals or questions submitted through any means other than those specified in this RFP will not be addressed or considered by the Lead State.

**B. RFP Amendments.**

1. The Lead State may, at any time and in its sole discretion, issue one or more amendments to this RFP. Information shared orally or in informal communications will not be considered an amendment unless explicitly stated in the communication or documented in writing on the RFP Website.
2. Offerors may, through the process described in this RFP for asking questions, propose amendments to the RFP, including adjustment of deadlines. The Lead State is not obligated to consider any proposed amendment.
3. The Lead State may extend any deadline given to Offerors during the RFP process, including the RFP Close Date and RFP Q&A Deadline.
4. The Lead State may make immaterial corrections or clarifications to the RFP.
5. Offeror is wholly responsible for reviewing amendments and updates to the RFP Website, acknowledging amendments as required, and submitting a proposal that is responsive to and compliant with the RFP as amended.

**C. Waiver.**

1. The Lead State may waive any requirement in this RFP if the Lead State determines that waiver is in the best interest of the Lead State and potential Participating Entities and Purchasing Entities.
2. Waiver of a requirement will not be construed as waiver of any other requirement in this RFP.
3. The Lead State may waive minor irregularities or defects in an Offeror's proposal.

**D. Conflicts and Issues.**

1. The following should be brought to the attention of the Lead State using the process described in this RFP for asking questions or, if applicable, by filing a protest using the process described in Attachment F, Protest Information:
  - a. Any alleged conflict among the materials composing this RFP; and
  - b. Any alleged issue relating to the content of this RFP, including instructions, requirements, or specifications alleged to be ambiguous, unduly restrictive, erroneous, anticompetitive, or unlawful.
2. Any protest, claim, dispute, or action based upon a conflict or issue described in Subsection 1.a or Subsection 1.b will be filed no later than the RFP Close Date. Offeror waives the right to file any protest, claim, dispute, or action based upon a conflict or issue described in Subsection 1.a or Subsection 1.b if not filed by the RFP Close Date.

**IV. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**



- A. AUTHORIZED AGENT (FEB 2015):** All authority regarding this procurement is vested solely with the responsible Procurement Officer. Unless specifically delegated in writing, the Procurement Officer is the only government official authorized to bind the government with regard to this procurement or the resulting contract.
- B. AWARD NOTIFICATION (MAR 2024):** Notice regarding any award, cancellation of award, or extension of award will be posted at the location and on the date specified on the Cover Page or, if applicable, the most recent notice of extension of award. Should the contract resulting from this Solicitation have a total or potential value more than one hundred thousand dollars, such notice will be sent electronically to all Offerors responding to the Solicitation. Unless a written notice of intent to protest is timely filed pursuant to Section 11-35-4210(1)(b) or the award is otherwise suspended or canceled, the award will be effective on the calendar day (including weekends and holidays) immediately following the seventh business day after such notice is given.
- C. BID/PROPOSAL AS OFFER TO CONTRACT (JAN 2004):** By submitting Your Bid or Proposal, You are offering to enter into a contract with the Using Governmental Unit(s). Without further action by either party, a binding contract shall result upon final award. Any award issued will be issued to, and the contract will be formed with, the entity identified as the Offeror on the Cover Page. An Offer may be submitted by only one legal entity; "joint bids" are not allowed.
- D. BID ACCEPTANCE PERIOD (JAN 2004):** In order to withdraw Your Offer after the minimum period specified on the Cover Page, You must notify the Procurement Officer in writing.
- E. AUTHORITY AS PROCUREMENT AGENT (DEC 2015):** The Procurement Officer is an employee of the Authority acting on behalf of the Using Governmental Unit(s) pursuant to the Consolidated Procurement Code. Any contracts awarded as a result of this procurement are between the Contractor and the Using Governmental Units(s). The Authority is not a party to such contracts, unless and to the extent that the Authority is a using governmental unit and bears no liability for any party's losses arising out of or relating in any way to the contract. ASDFG
- F. CERTIFICATE OF INDEPENDENT PRICE DETERMINATION (MAR 2024):** GIVING FALSE, MISLEADING, OR INCOMPLETE INFORMATION ON THIS CERTIFICATION MAY RENDER YOU SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION UNDER SECTION 16-9-10 OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS.
- (a) By submitting an offer, the offeror certifies that-
- (1) The prices in this offer have been arrived at independently, without, for the purpose of restricting competition, any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other offeror or competitor relating to—
- (i) Those prices;
- (ii) The intention to submit an offer; or
- (iii) The methods or factors used to calculate the prices offered.
- (2) The prices in this offer have not been and will not be knowingly disclosed by the offeror, directly or indirectly, to any other 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 offeror to induce any other concern to submit or not to submit an offer for the purpose of restricting competition.
- (b) Each signature on the offer is considered to be a certification by the signatory that the signatory-
- (1) Is the person in the 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 paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification; or
- (2)(i) Has been authorized, in writing, to act as agent for the offeror's principals in certifying that those principals have not participated, and will not participate in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification [As used in this subdivision (b)(2)(i), the term "principals"



means the person(s) in the offeror's organization responsible for determining the prices offered in this bid or proposal];

(ii) As an authorized agent, does certify that the principals referenced in subdivision (b)(2)(i) of this certification have not participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification; and

(iii) As an agent, has not personally participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this certification.

(c) If the offeror deletes or modifies paragraph (a)(2) of this certification, the offeror must furnish with its offer a signed statement setting forth in detail the circumstances of the disclosure.

**G. CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS (JAN 2004):**

(a) (1) By submitting an Offer, Offeror certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that-

(i) Offeror and/or any of its Principals-

(A) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for the award of contracts by any state or federal agency;

(B) Have not, within a three-year period preceding this offer, 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) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or state antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, or receiving stolen property; and

(C) Are not presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (a)(1)(i)(B) of this provision.

(ii) Offeror has not, within a three-year period preceding this offer, had one or more contracts terminated for default by any public (Federal, state, or local) entity.

(2) "Principals," for the purposes of this certification, means officers; directors; owners; partners; and, persons having primary management or supervisory responsibilities within a business entity (e.g., general manager; plant manager; head of a subsidiary, division, or business segment, and similar positions).

(b) Offeror shall provide immediate written notice to the Procurement Officer if, at any time prior to contract award, Offeror learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

(c) If Offeror is unable to certify the representations stated in paragraphs (a)(1), Offer must submit a written explanation regarding its inability to make the certification. The certification will be considered in connection with a review of the Offeror's responsibility. Failure of the Offeror to furnish additional information as requested by the Procurement Officer may render the Offeror nonresponsible.

(d) 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 paragraph (a) of this provision. The knowledge and information of an Offeror is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

(e) The certification in paragraph (a) of this provision is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when making award. If it is later determined that the Offeror knowingly or in bad faith rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the State, the Procurement Officer may terminate the contract resulting from this solicitation for default.

**H. CODE OF LAWS AVAILABLE (JAN 2006):** The South Carolina Code of Laws, including the Consolidated Procurement Code, is available at:

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/statmast.php>

The South Carolina Regulations are available at:

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/coderegs/statmast.php>





- I. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OR UNFAIR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE (JUL 2023):**  
("OCI FAQ for Contractors" is available at [www.procurement.sc.gov](http://www.procurement.sc.gov))  
(a) You certify that, after reasonable inquiry, to the best of your knowledge and belief: (1) your offer identifies any services that relate to either this solicitation or the work and that have already been performed by you, a proposed subcontractor, or an affiliated business or consultant of either; and (2) there are no relevant facts or circumstances that may give rise to an actual or potential organizational conflict of interest, as defined in S.C. Code Ann. Reg. 19-445.2127, or that your offer identifies and explains any unfair competitive advantage you may have in competing for the proposed contract and any actual or potential conflicts of interest that may arise from your participation in this competition or your receipt of an award.  
(b) If you, a proposed subcontractor, or an affiliated business or consultant of either, have an unfair competitive advantage or an actual or potential conflict of interest, the State may withhold award. Before withholding award on these grounds, the State will notify you of the concerns and provide a reasonable opportunity for you to respond. The State may consider efforts to avoid or mitigate such concerns, including restrictions on future activities.  
(c) The certification in paragraph (a) of this provision is a material representation of fact upon which the State will rely when considering your offer for award.
- J. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF OFFER (JAN 2004):** Any offer received after the Procurement Officer of the governmental body or his designee has declared that the time set for opening has arrived, shall be rejected unless the offer has been delivered to the designated purchasing office or the governmental body's mail room which services that purchasing office prior to the opening. [R.19-445.2070(G)]
- K. DRUG FREE WORKPLACE CERTIFICATION (JAN 2004):** By submitting an Offer, Contractor certifies that, if awarded a contract, Contractor will comply with all applicable provisions of The Drug-free Workplace Act, Title 44, Chapter 107 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended.
- L. DUTY TO INQUIRE (FEB 2015):** Offeror, by submitting an Offer, represents that it has read and understands the Solicitation and that its Offer is made in compliance with the Solicitation. Offerors are expected to examine the Solicitation thoroughly and should request an explanation of any ambiguities, discrepancies, errors, omissions, or conflicting statements in the Solicitation. Failure to do so will be at the Offeror's risk. All ambiguities, discrepancies, errors, omissions, or conflicting statements in the Solicitation shall be interpreted to require the better quality or greater quantity of work and/or materials, unless otherwise directed by amendment. Offeror assumes responsibility for any patent ambiguity in the Solicitation that Offeror does not bring to the State's attention. See clause entitled "Questions from Offerors."
- M. ETHICS CERTIFICATE (MAY 2008):** By submitting an offer, the offeror certifies that the offeror has and will comply with, and has not, and will not, induce a person to violate Title 8, Chapter 13 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended (ethics act). The following statutes require special attention: Section 8-13-700, regarding use of official position for financial gain; Section 8-13-705, regarding gifts to influence action of public official; Section 8-13-720, regarding offering money for advice or assistance of public official; Sections 8-13-755 and 8-13-760, regarding restrictions on employment by former public official; Section 8-13-775, prohibiting public official with economic interests from acting on contracts; Section 8-13-790, regarding recovery of kickbacks; Section 8-13-1150, regarding statements to be filed by consultants; and Section 8-13-1342, regarding restrictions on contributions by contractor to candidate who participated in awarding of contract.



The state may rescind any contract and recover all amounts expended as a result of any action taken in violation of this provision. If contractor participates, directly or indirectly, in the evaluation or award of public contracts, including without limitation, change orders or task orders regarding a public contract, contractor shall, if required by law to file such a statement, provide the statement required by Section 8-13-1150 to the procurement officer at the same time the law requires the statement to be filed.

- N. MULTIPLE OFFERS (MAR 2024):** Offerors may submit more than one Offer, provided that each Offer has significant differences other than price. Each separate Offer must satisfy all Solicitation requirements. If this solicitation is an Invitation for Bids, each separate offer must be submitted or uploaded as a separate document and must clearly indicate that it is a separate offer. If this solicitation is a Request for Proposals, multiple offers may be submitted or uploaded as one document, provided that you clearly differentiate between each offer and you submit a separate cost proposal for each offer, if applicable.
- O. OMIT TAXES FROM PRICE (JAN 2004):** Do not include any sales or use taxes in Your price that the State may be required to pay.
- P. OPEN TRADE REPRESENTATION (JUN 2015):** By submitting an Offer, Offeror represents that Offeror is not currently engaged in the boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with whom South Carolina can enjoy open trade, as defined in SC Code Section 11-35-5300.
- Q. PRICING (MAR 2024):** (a) Fixed Price. If a fixed price is required, award will not be made on an Offer if the total possible price to the State cannot be determined. (b) Price Reasonableness: Any offer may be rejected if the Procurement Officer determines in writing that it is unreasonable as to price. S.C. Code Ann. Reg. 19-445.2070E. (c) Unbalanced Pricing. The State will analyze all offers with separately priced line items or subline items to determine if the prices are unbalanced. Unbalanced pricing exists when, despite an acceptable total evaluated price, the price of one or more-line items is significantly over or understated. The responsible procurement officer may reject an offer as unreasonably priced if she determines that unbalanced pricing increases performance risk (e.g., it is so unbalanced as to be tantamount to allowing an advance payment) or could result in payment of unreasonably high prices. S.C. Code Ann. Reg. 19-445.2122C.
- R. PROTESTS (MAY 2024):** (a) If you are aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of the contract, you may be entitled to protest, but only as provided in Section 11-35-4210. To protest the solicitation or an amendment, your written protest must be received within fifteen Days of the date the applicable solicitation document is issued. To protest an award, (i) written notice of your intent to protest must be received within seven Business Days of the date the award notice is posted, and (ii) your actual written protest must be received within fifteen Days of the date the award notice is posted. Time periods are computed in accordance with Section 11-35-310(13) and the definitions for Day and Business Day. Both protests and notices of intent to protest must be received by the appropriate Chief Procurement Officer (CPO). See clause entitled "Protest-CPO." (b) Pursuant to Section 11-35-410, documents directly connected to a procurement activity may be available within five days after request. All document requests should be directed to [DocReq@mmo.sc.gov](mailto:DocReq@mmo.sc.gov). If a protest is pending, the protestant's lawyer may access otherwise unavailable information by applying to the CPO for the issuance of a protective order. Additional information is available at [www.procurement.sc.gov/legal](http://www.procurement.sc.gov/legal)



- S. PROHIBITED COMMUNICATIONS AND DONATIONS (FEB 2015):** Violation of these restrictions may result in disqualification of your offer, suspension or debarment, and may constitute a violation of law.
- (a) During the period between publication of the solicitation and final award, you must not communicate, directly or indirectly, with the Using Governmental Unit or its employees, agents or officials regarding any aspect of this procurement activity, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Procurement Officer. All communications must be solely with the Procurement Officer. [R. 19-445.2010]
- (b) You are advised to familiarize yourself with Regulation 19-445.2165, which restricts donations to a governmental entity with whom you have or seek to have a contract. You represent that your offer discloses any gifts made, directly or through an intermediary, by you or your named subcontractors to or for the benefit of the Using Governmental Unit during the period beginning eighteen months prior to the Opening Date. [R. 19-445.2165]
- T. QUESTIONS FROM OFFERORS (FEB 2015):** (a) Any prospective offeror desiring an explanation or interpretation of the solicitation, drawings, specifications, etc., must request it in writing. Questions regarding the original solicitation or any amendment must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than five (5) days prior to opening unless an earlier date is stated on the Cover Page. Label any communication regarding your questions with the name of the procurement officer, and the solicitation's title and number. Oral explanations or instructions will not be binding. [See R. 19-445.2042(B)] Any information given a prospective offeror concerning a solicitation will be furnished promptly to all other prospective offerors as an Amendment to the solicitation, if that information is necessary for submitting offers or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to other prospective offerors. See clause entitled "Duty to Inquire." We will not identify you in our answer to your question. (b) The State seeks to permit maximum practicable competition. Offerors are urged to advise the Procurement Officer -- as soon as possible -- regarding any aspect of this procurement, including any aspect of the Solicitation that unnecessarily or inappropriately limits full and open competition. [See R. 19-445.2140]
- U. REJECTION/CANCELLATION (JAN 2004):** The State may cancel this solicitation in whole or in part. The State may reject any or all proposals in whole or in part. [SC Code Section 11-35-1710 & R.19-445.2065]
- V. RESPONSIVENESS (MAR 2024):** (a) Award will not be made on a nonresponsive offer. An offer is nonresponsive (i) if it does not constitute an unambiguous offer to enter into a contract with the State, or (ii) if it imposes conditions inconsistent with, or does not unambiguously agree to, the solicitation's material requirements. (b) Bid as Specified. Offers for supplies or services other than those specified will not be considered unless authorized by the Solicitation.
- W. SIGNING YOUR OFFER (JAN 2004):** Every Offer must be signed by an individual with actual authority to bind the Offeror. (a) If the Offeror is an individual, the Offer must be signed by that individual. If the Offeror is an individual doing business as a firm, the Offer must be submitted in the firm name, signed by the individual, and state that the individual is doing business as a firm. (b) If the Offeror is a partnership, the Offer must be submitted in the partnership name, followed by the words by its Partner, and signed by a general partner. (c) If the Offeror is a corporation, the Offer must be submitted in the corporate name, followed by the signature and title of the person authorized to sign. (d) An Offer may be submitted by a joint venturer involving any combination of individuals, partnerships, or corporations. If the Offeror is a joint venture, the Offer must be submitted in the name of the Joint Venture and signed by every participant in the joint venture in the manner prescribed in paragraphs (a) through (c) above for each type of participant. (e) If an





Offer is signed by an agent, other than as stated in subparagraphs (a) through (d) above, the Offer must state that it has been signed by an Agent. Upon request, Offeror must provide proof of the agent's authorization to bind the principal.

- X. STATE OFFICE CLOSINGS (JAN 2004):** If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal government processes so that offers cannot be received at the government office designated for receipt of bids by the exact time specified in the solicitation, the time specified for receipt of offers will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the solicitation on the first workday on which normal government processes resume. In lieu of an automatic extension, an Amendment may be issued to reschedule bid opening. If state offices are closed at the time a pre-bid or pre-proposal conference is scheduled, an Amendment will be issued to reschedule the conference. Useful information may be available at: <https://scemd.org/closings/>

**Y. DISCLOSURE OF YOUR BID / PROPOSAL and SUBMITTING CONFIDENTIAL DATA (FEB 2021):**

(a) According to Section 11-35-410, any person submitting a document in response or with regard to any solicitation or other request must "comply with instructions provided in the solicitation for marking information exempt from public disclosure. Information not marked as required by the applicable instructions may be disclosed to the public." IF YOU IDENTIFY YOUR ENTIRE RESPONSE AS EXEMPT FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, OR IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT A REDACTED COPY AS REQUIRED, THE STATE MAY, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, DETERMINE YOUR BID OR PROPOSAL NONRESPONSIVE AND INELIGIBLE FOR AWARD. (b) By submitting a response to this solicitation or request, Offeror (1) agrees to the public disclosure of every page, or portion thereof, of every document regarding this solicitation or request that was submitted at any time prior to entering into a contract (including, but not limited to, documents contained in a response, documents submitted to clarify a response, and documents submitted during negotiations), unless the page, or portion thereof, was redacted and conspicuously marked "Trade Secret" or "Confidential" or "Protected", (2) agrees that any information not redacted and marked, as required by these bidding instructions, as a "Trade Secret" is not a trade secret as defined by the Trade Secrets Act, and (3) agrees that, notwithstanding any claims or markings otherwise, any prices, commissions, discounts, or other financial figures used to determine the award, as well as the final contract amount, are subject to public disclosure. (c) If your offer includes any information that you claim is exempt from public disclosure, you must submit one complete copy of your offer from which you have removed or concealed such information (the redacted copy). Except for the information removed or concealed, the redacted copy must be identical to your original offer. (d) Do not mark your entire response (bid, proposal, quote, etc.) as confidential, trade secret, or protected. If only portions of a page are subject to some protection, do not redact the entire page. The redacted copy must reflect the same pagination as the original and show the empty space from which information was redacted. The Procurement Officer must be able to view, search, copy and print the redacted copy without a password. If your response, or any part thereof, is improperly marked as confidential or trade secret or protected, the State may, in its sole discretion, determine it nonresponsive. (e) On the redacted copy, you must identify the basis of your claim by marking each redaction as follows: You must separately mark with the word "CONFIDENTIAL" every page, or portion thereof, that you redacted and claim as exempt from public disclosure because it is either (1) a trade secret as defined in Section 30-4-40(a)(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, or (2) privileged and confidential, as that phrase is used in Section 11-35-410. You must separately mark with the words "TRADE SECRET" every page, or portion thereof, that you redacted and claim as exempt from public disclosure as a trade secret pursuant to Section 39-8-20 of the Trade Secrets Act. You must separately mark with the word "PROTECTED" every page, or portion thereof, that you redacted and claim as exempt from public disclosure pursuant to Section 11-35- 1810. All



markings must be conspicuous; use color, bold, underlining, or some other method in order to conspicuously distinguish the mark from the other text. (f) In determining whether to release documents, the State will detrimentally rely on your redaction and marking of documents, as required by these bidding instructions, as being either "Confidential" or "Trade Secret" or "Protected". By submitting a response, you agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the State of South Carolina, its agencies, officers and employees, from every claim, demand, loss, expense, cost, damage or injury, including attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from withholding information by the State of South Carolina or any of its agencies, that you have redacted or marked as "Confidential" or "Trade Secret" or "Protected". (All references to S.C. Code of Laws.)

- Z. SUBMITTING A PAPER OFFER OR MODIFICATION (MAR 2015):** Unless specifically instructed otherwise in the solicitation, you should submit your offer or modification in accordance with the clause titled "ON-LINE BIDDING INSTRUCTIONS." Paper offers are discouraged. If you must submit a paper offer or modification the following instructions apply. (a) All prices and notations should be printed in ink or typewritten. Errors should be crossed out, corrections entered and initialed by the person signing the bid. Do not modify the solicitation document itself (including bid schedule). (b) (1) All copies of the offer or modification, and any other documents required to be submitted with the offer shall be enclosed in a sealed, opaque envelope or package. (2) Submit your offer or modification to the address on the Cover Page. (3) The envelope or package must show the time and date specified for opening, the solicitation number, and the name and address of the bidder. If the offer or modification is sent by mail or special delivery service (UPS, Federal Express, etc.), the outermost envelope or wrapper must be labeled "OFFER ENCLOSED" on the face thereof. (c) If you are responding to more than one solicitation, submit each offer in a separate envelope or package. (d) Submit the number of copies indicated on the Cover Page. (e) Facsimile or e-mail offers, modifications, or withdrawals, will not be considered unless authorized by the Solicitation.

**AA. TAX CREDIT FOR SUBCONTRACTING WITH DISADVANTAGED SMALL BUSINESSES (APR 2024):**

Pursuant to Section 12-6-3350, a taxpayer having a contract with this State who subcontracts with a socially and economically disadvantaged small business is eligible for an income tax credit equal to four percent of the payments to that subcontractor for work pursuant to the contract. The subcontractor must be certified as a socially and economically disadvantaged small business as defined in Section 11-35-5010 and regulations pursuant to it. The credit is limited to a maximum of fifty thousand dollars annually. A taxpayer is eligible to claim the credit for ten consecutive taxable years beginning with the taxable year in which the first payment is made to the subcontractor that qualifies for the credit. After the above ten consecutive taxable years, the taxpayer is no longer eligible for the credit. A taxpayer claiming the credit shall maintain evidence of work performed for the contract by the subcontractor. The credit may be claimed on Schedule TC-2, "Credit for State Contractors Subcontracting with Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Small Business." A copy of the subcontractor's certificate from the Division of Small and Minority Business Contracting and Certification is to be attached to the contractor's income tax return. Questions regarding the tax credit and how to file are to be referred to: SC Department of Revenue, <http://dor.sc.gov>. Questions regarding subcontractor certification are to be referred to: Division of Small and Minority Business Contracting and Certification, <http://smbcc.sc.gov>.

- BB. VENDOR REGISTRATION MANDATORY (MAY 2024):** You must have a state vendor number to be eligible to submit an offer. To obtain a state vendor number, visit [www.procurement.sc.gov](http://www.procurement.sc.gov) and select Doing Business with Us. Then select New Vendor Registration. (To determine if your business is already registered, go to "Vendor Search"). Upon registration, you will be assigned a



state vendor number. Note that your vendor registration submission may take up to 30 days to process due to high numbers of registrants. Vendors must keep their vendor information current. If you are already registered and know your User ID and Password, you can update your information by selecting Update Vendor Registration. If you need to update information but do not have your User ID/Password, you must complete a new vendor registration and On Step 9 – Messages to Administration indicate “Update vendor number” with your existing 10-digit vendor number. (Please note that vendor registration does not substitute for any obligation to register with the S.C. Secretary of State or S.C. Department of Revenue. You can register with the agencies at South Carolina Business One Stop, <http://scbos.sc.gov>)

**CC. WITHDRAWAL OR CORRECTION OF OFFER (JAN 2004):** Offers may be withdrawn by written notice received at any time before the exact time set for opening. If the Solicitation authorizes facsimile offers, offers may be withdrawn via facsimile received at any time before the exact time set for opening. A bid may be withdrawn in person by a bidder or its authorized representative if, before the exact time set for opening, the identity of the person requesting withdrawal is established and the person signs a receipt for the bid. The withdrawal and correction of Offers is governed by S.C. Code Section 11-35-1520 and Regulation 19-445.2085.

## **V. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

**A. MAIL PICKUP (JAN 2006):** The State Procurement Office picks up all mail from The US Postal Service once daily around 8:30 a.m. (excluding weekends and holidays). See provision entitled Deadline for Submission of Offer.

### **B. ON-LINE BIDDING INSTRUCTIONS (MODIFIED):**

(a) Mandatory Registration. You must register before you can submit an offer on-line See clause entitled “VENDOR REGISTRATION MANDATORY.”

(b) Steps for On-Line Bidding

#1 The link provided on the solicitation’s Cover Page will take you to our web based on-line bidding system, where you will enter and/or upload your offer.

#2 Follow the general user instructions posted at [www.procurement.sc.gov](http://www.procurement.sc.gov) under the heading “Doing Business with Us” and then “Submitting Offers.”

#3 Confirm your offer has a status of “submitted” by refreshing the “RFx and Auctions” screen.

Only offers with a status of “submitted” have been received by the State.

Offers with a status of “saved” have not been received.

#4 Save or print a copy of your offer using the “Print Preview” button after your offer has been submitted.

(c) If you have problems entering an on-line offer, you must contact the SCEIS Help Desk for assistance at (803) 896-0001 and follow the prompts. You may also contact the SCEIS Help Desk on-line at <http://www.sceis.sc.gov/vendorrequests/>. Do not contact the Procurement Officer with problems entering an offer into the system. Only questions regarding the solicitation document should be addressed with the Procurement Officer.



(d) Do not wait until the last minute to submit your offer. If an on-line offer is not completed and in a submitted status prior to the submission deadline, the offer will not be considered for award.

**C. PROTEST - CPO - MMO ADDRESS (MAR 2024):**

Any protest must be addressed to the Chief Procurement Officer, Materials Management Office, and submitted in writing:

(a) by email to [protest-mmo@mmo.state.sc.us](mailto:protest-mmo@mmo.state.sc.us), or

(b) by post or delivery to 1201 Main Street, Suite 600, Columbia, SC 29201.

**D. UNIT PRICES REQUIRED (JAN 2006):** Unit price to be shown for each item.

**E. IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE - NONRESIDENTS ONLY:**

Withholding Requirements for Payments to Nonresidents: Section 12-8-550 of the South Carolina Code of Laws requires persons hiring or contracting with a nonresident conducting a business or performing personal services of a temporary nature within South Carolina to withhold 2% of each payment made to the nonresident. The withholding requirement does not apply to (1) payments on purchase orders for tangible personal property when the payments are not accompanied by services to be performed in South Carolina, (2) nonresidents who are not conducting business in South Carolina, (3) nonresidents for contracts that do not exceed \$10,000 in a calendar year, or (4) payments to a nonresident who (a) registers with either the S.C. Department of Revenue or the S.C. Secretary of State and (b) submits a Nonresident Taxpayer Registration Affidavit - Income Tax Withholding, Form I-312 to the person letting the contract.

The withholding requirement applies to every governmental entity that uses a contract ("Using Entity"). Nonresidents should submit a separate copy of the Nonresident Taxpayer Registration Affidavit - Income Tax Withholding, Form I-312 to every Using Entity that makes payment to the nonresident pursuant to this solicitation. Once submitted, an affidavit is valid for all contracts between the nonresident and the Using Entity, unless the Using Entity receives notice from the Department of Revenue that the exemption from withholding has been revoked.

Section 12-8-540 requires persons making payment to a nonresident taxpayer of rentals or royalties at a rate of \$1,200.00 or more a year for the use of or for the privilege of using property in South Carolina to withhold 7% of the total of each payment made to a nonresident taxpayer who is not a corporation and 5% if the payment is made to a corporation. Contact the Department of Revenue for any applicable exceptions.

For information about other withholding requirements (e.g., employee withholding), contact the South Carolina Department of Revenue at 1-844-898-8542 or visit the Department's website at: [www.dor.sc.gov](http://www.dor.sc.gov)

- F.** This notice is for informational purposes only. This agency does not administer and has no authority over tax issues. All registration and withholding tax questions should be directed to the South Carolina Department of Revenue at 1-844-898-8542. Additional contact information can be found by visiting the Department's website at [www.dor.sc.gov](http://www.dor.sc.gov)

PLEASE SEE THE "NONRESIDENT TAXPAYER REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING" FORM (FORM NUMBER I-312) LOCATED AT: [www.dor.sc.gov](http://www.dor.sc.gov)



## VI. PROPOSALS

- A. **Late Delivery or Non-delivery of Proposal.** Offeror is wholly responsible for ensuring Offeror's proposal is complete and submitted timely to the Lead State in the format required by this RFP. The Lead State will not accept a proposal after the RFP Close Date.
- B. **Modified and Alternate Proposals.** Offeror is expected to submit Offeror's most favorable terms and pricing in its original proposal submitted by the RFP Close Date. The Lead State is under no obligation to provide Offeror an opportunity to modify or submit an addendum to Offeror's original proposal or to submit another proposal, including a best and final offer, prior to final evaluation and award. Alternate proposals will not be accepted unless otherwise specified in this RFP.
- C. **Discussions and Negotiations - Optional (FEB 2015).** Submit your best terms from both a price and a technical standpoint. Your proposal may be evaluated, and your offer accepted without any discussions, negotiations, or prior notice. Ordinarily, nonresponsive proposals will be rejected outright without prior notice. Nevertheless, the State may elect to conduct discussions, including the possibility of limited proposal revisions, but only for those proposals reasonably susceptible of being selected for award. [11-35-1530(6); R.19-445.2095(I)] If improper revisions are submitted during discussions, the State may elect to consider only your unrevised initial proposal, provided your initial offer is responsive. The State may also elect to conduct negotiations, beginning with the highest ranked offeror, or seek best and final offers, as provided in Section 11-35-1530(8). Negotiations may involve both price and matters affecting the scope of the contract, so long as changes are within the general scope of the request for proposals. If negotiations are conducted, the State may elect to disregard the negotiations and accept your original proposal.
- D. **Cost Proposal.**
1. Offeror must complete all required elements of Attachment I, Cost Proposal. The format and structure of the Cost Proposal is intended to allow for a fair evaluation of like costs among Offerors. Deviation from the format or structure of the Cost Proposal may result in Offeror's proposal being deemed non-responsive.
  2. Offeror is wholly responsible for ensuring figures and calculations submitted in Offeror's completed Cost Proposal are accurate, even if formulas have been provided by the Lead State as a courtesy.
  3. Inclusion of cost or pricing information in any document other than the Cost Proposal may result in Offeror's proposal being deemed non-responsive.
  4. Offeror's proposed costs must be inclusive of all fees and charges, including but not limited to fees or charges for shipping, delivery, credit card payments, and personnel. All costs proposed by Offeror must also be inclusive of the NASPO ValuePoint administrative fee. Proposed costs incorporated into a Master Agreement resulting from this RFP represent not-to-exceed pricing and minimum discounts, where applicable. Except as permitted by Subsection 5, pricing offered to Participating Entities and Purchasing Entities must be no higher than pricing set forth in the Master Agreement.
  5. A Participating Addendum may also require payment of an additional administrative fee by Contractors to a Participating Entity based on sales to Purchasing Entities within the jurisdiction of the Participating Entity. Unless otherwise negotiated by the Participating Entity, Contractor may adjust the Master Agreement pricing incorporated into the Participating Entity's Participating Addendum by an amount not to exceed the Participating Entity's fee. Such adjustments will have no effect on the NASPO ValuePoint administrative fee, pricing in the Master Agreement, or pricing offered to Purchasing Entities outside the jurisdiction of the Participating Entity.





6. In addition to the Cost Proposal evaluation described in this RFP, Cost Proposals may also be subject to an independent review for reasonableness by the Lead State. Costs determined not to be reasonable or best-value by the Lead State, including any cost to which Offeror's proposed markup or discount is to be applied, may result in all or part of Offeror's proposal being rejected, notwithstanding the results of the Cost Proposal evaluation.
7. At the Lead State's discretion, points earned in the Cost Proposal evaluation may be normalized and scaled to award the Offeror earning the highest total cost score the maximum number of cost points possible.

**E. Proposed Modifications to the Sample Master Agreement.**

1. The Lead State may, but is not obligated to, consider proposed modifications to Attachment D, Sample Master Agreement. Provisions of the Sample Master Agreement that are generally inapplicable to, incompatible with, or unsuitable for the subject of this RFP should be brought to the attention of the Lead State using the process described in this RFP for asking questions and will be addressed only at the sole discretion of the Lead State.
2. Offeror-specific modifications to Attachment D, Sample Master Agreement, may be proposed as part of Offeror's proposal in Attachment J, Proposed Modifications to Sample Master Agreement, but are strongly discouraged. The quantity, breadth, and nature of modifications proposed by Offeror may be considered in the Lead State's evaluation of Offeror's proposal and of its risks, costs, and benefits to the Lead State and potential Participating Entities and Purchasing Entities. Proposing excessive or overly restrictive modifications, or proposing modifications upon which Offeror's proposal is conditioned, may result in Offeror's proposal being deemed non-responsive.
3. The Lead State will not consider any proposed modification that:
  - a. Is not submitted with Offeror's proposal in Attachment J, Proposed Modifications to Sample Master Agreement;
  - b. Is not accompanied by an explanation as required in Attachment J, Proposed Modifications to Sample Master Agreement;
  - c. Is not reflected in redlined edits to the Sample Master Agreement and submitted with Offeror's proposal;
  - d. Merely references another document or a URL; or
  - e. Modifies the NASPO ValuePoint administrative fee.
4. Offerors may propose additional terms but must include them in Attachment J, Proposed Modifications to Sample Master Agreement and must clearly identify where any terms conflict with the Sample Master Agreement.
5. If Offeror is awarded a Master Agreement resulting from this RFP, a comparison of Attachment D, Sample Master Agreement and Offeror's accepted modifications thereto may be posted on the NASPO ValuePoint website for examination by potential Participating Entities and Purchasing Entities.

**F. Proposal Contact.**

1. The Proposal Contact identified by Offeror in Attachment G, Offeror Information, Acknowledgements, and Certifications must be able to respond timely to communications from the Lead State. Offeror must, within 24 hours, notify the Lead State of any change to Offeror's Proposal Contact. Offeror is wholly responsible for ensuring communications received by Offeror's Proposal Contact are reviewed and addressed timely by the appropriate personnel.
2. The Lead State may, but is under no obligation to, notify Offeror's Proposal Contact of updates to the RFP Website, including the posting of RFP amendments. Offeror is wholly



responsible for reviewing updates and submitting a proposal that is responsive to and compliant with the RFP as amended.

- G. Proposal Development Costs.** All costs incurred by Offeror in the preparation and submission of a proposal, including any costs incurred during discussions, clarifications, or demonstrations, are the responsibility of Offeror and will not be reimbursed.
- H. Firm Offer.** Offeror's proposal will act as a firm offer for 180 days following the RFP Close Date. After 180 days, the offer will remain open unless revoked by Offeror via written withdrawal of Offeror's proposal in accordance with South Carolina Regulation 19-445.2085.
- I. Ownership and Disclosure of Proposals.**
1. Hard copy proposals and tangible items submitted by Offeror in connection with this RFP, including physical media and product samples, will become the property of the Lead State and may not be returned to Offeror.
  2. Offeror grants Lead State and NASPO a perpetual, irrevocable, non-exclusive, royalty-free, and transferable right to display, modify, copy, and otherwise use the contents of Offeror's proposal, which may be:
    - a. Shared with NASPO members;
    - b. Shared with entities represented on the Multistate Sourcing Team;
    - c. Posted to the NASPO ValuePoint website following execution of Master Agreements for examination by potential Participating Entities and Purchasing Entities;
    - d. Subject to disclosure in accordance with applicable public information laws, rules, and policies; and
    - e. Subject to retention, archiving, and destruction in accordance with applicable retention laws, rules, and policies.
  3. If Offeror is claiming any portion of its proposal as confidential, proprietary, or protected, Offeror must complete the required sections of Attachment K, Claim of Business Confidentiality, and submit with Offeror's proposal a redacted copy of Offeror's proposal, which must be clearly marked as such. Offeror may not mark pricing or Offeror's entire proposal as confidential, proprietary, or protected. Submission of a Claim of Business Confidentiality does not guarantee that information claimed by Offeror as confidential, proprietary, or protected will not be subject to disclosure in accordance with applicable public information laws, rules, and policies. If Offeror fails to submit a redacted copy of Offeror's proposal, or fails to claim information as confidential, proprietary, or protected in compliance with this RFP, Offeror releases the Lead State, NASPO, NASPO members, and entities represented on the Multistate Sourcing Team from any obligation to keep the information confidential and waives all claims of liability arising from disclosure of the information.
- J. Confidential Information.** If Offeror is provided or given access to Confidential Information in connection with this RFP, Offeror will keep the Confidential Information in confidence and will not use the Confidential Information for any purpose other than as directed by the Lead State and as necessary to respond to this RFP. Unless otherwise directed by the Lead State, Offeror will destroy Confidential Information within 30 days of the cancellation of this RFP, rejection or withdrawal of Offeror's proposal, or execution of a Master Agreement between the Lead State and Offeror.
- K. Required Signatures.** Offeror's failure to have an authorized representative sign any document or attachment requiring a signature, including electronic signatures or certifications, may result in rejection of the proposal by the Lead State.



- L. **NASPO ValuePoint eMarketPlace.** Participation in the NASPO ValuePoint eMarketPlace by Offerors awarded a Master Agreement resulting from this RFP is **mandatory**. By submitting a proposal, Offeror agrees to comply with the requirements, terms, and conditions related to the NASPO ValuePoint eMarketPlace set forth in Attachment D, Sample Master Agreement.

## **VII. RIGHTS RESERVED TO THE LEAD STATE**

### **A. RFP Contact and Multistate Sourcing Team.**

1. The Lead State may change the RFP Contact at any time. The Lead State will notify potential Offerors of the change via an amendment to this RFP, an email to the Offeror's Proposal Contact, or an update to the RFP Website.
2. The Lead State is not required to disclose the composition of the Multistate Sourcing Team and may, at any time and without notice, change the composition of the Multistate Sourcing Team, provided the composition complies with the Lead State's laws, rules, and policies.

- B. **Consideration of External Information.** The Lead State and Multistate Sourcing Team may consult external sources and consider external information to confirm the responsibility of Offeror, the responsiveness of Offeror's proposal, and the veracity of any representation made by Offeror. Offeror will be given a reasonable opportunity to respond to any external information obtained by the Lead State and Multistate Sourcing Team that materially and negatively affects evaluation of Offeror's proposal. External information does not include information obtained from references provided by Offeror.

- C. **Rejection of Proposals.** The Lead State may reject Offeror's proposal at any time if the Lead State determines that:
1. The proposal is non-responsive;
  2. The proposal has failed to meet any mandatory requirement of the RFP, including any minimum scoring threshold;
  3. Offeror is not responsible; or
  4. Offeror has committed a violation of procurement law, rule, or policy.

### **D. Cancellation.**

1. The Lead State may cancel this RFP at any time if the Lead State determines that cancellation is in the best interest of the Lead State and potential Participating Entities and Purchasing Entities.
2. Following cancellation, the Lead State may, at its discretion, re-issue this RFP or issue another RFP for the same or similar Deliverables.

### **E. No Exclusivity.**

1. Master Agreements resulting from this RFP will be established solely for the convenience of Participating Entities. The Lead State, Participating Entities, and Purchasing Entities reserve the right to obtain the same or similar Deliverables from other sources when in their best interest and permitted by applicable law, rule, or policy.
2. The Lead State may, at its discretion, issue a supplemental solicitation during the term of a Master Agreement resulting from this RFP if the Lead State determines that:
  - a. There is insufficient competition among Contractors awarded a Master Agreement resulting from this RFP;
  - b. The quantity or diversity of Deliverables available through Master Agreements resulting from this RFP is insufficient to meet demand; or
  - c. Changes in the industry, market, or technology justify the solicitation of new or supplemental Contractors or Deliverables.



**F. Conditional Awards.**

1. Award and execution of a NASPO ValuePoint Master Agreement by the Lead State is conditioned upon the following:
  - a. Approval by NASPO ValuePoint;
  - b. Approval by any individual or group of individuals required to approve Lead State awards or contracts, including but not limited to legal counsel, an overseeing board, or agency head;
  - c. Continued eligibility for award following resolution of any protests received by the Lead State; and
  - d. Negotiation of Master Agreement terms, conditions, and pricing satisfactory to the Lead State, awarded Offeror, and NASPO ValuePoint.
2. Approval of awards and Master Agreements may be in whole or in part.
3. Awards and Master Agreements not approved by NASPO ValuePoint may, at the Lead State's option, result in a contract for use by the Lead State only.
4. Offeror agrees to hold the Lead State and NASPO harmless and release the Lead State and NASPO from any liability for damages arising from non-award or non-execution of a contract.
5. Nothing in this section affects Offeror's right to file a protest in accordance with Attachment F, Protest Information.

- G. Term.** The Lead State may, prior to execution, adjust the effective date or duration of the initial term or renewal period of any Master Agreement resulting from this RFP for the purpose of making the Master Agreement coterminous with others. If this RFP is a re-solicitation of an existing NASPO ValuePoint portfolio, the Lead State may, at its option, defer the effective date of Master Agreements resulting from this RFP to reduce or eliminate overlap in portfolio terms.

**VIII. POTENTIAL PARTICIPATING ENTITIES**

**A. Interested States.**

1. States that have requested to be named in this RFP as potential participants in the resulting Master Agreement(s) are listed as Interested States in Attachment E, Participation Information. This list neither guarantees execution of a Participating Addendum by an Interested State nor precludes execution of a Participating Addendum by any state or entity not identified as an Interested State.
2. The Estimated Annual Volume in Attachment E, Participation Information aggregates usage estimates, self-reported by the Interested States, which may be based on any factor considered relevant by each Interested State, including historical usage and anticipated future usage. No minimum or maximum level of sales volume is guaranteed or implied.
3. Some Interested States have also provided state-specific terms and conditions that may apply to a Participating Addendum executed with an Offeror awarded a Master Agreement through this RFP. Any terms and conditions included in Attachment E, Participation Information are being provided for informational purposes only and will not be incorporated into the Master Agreement or addressed or negotiated by the Lead State. Participation and the terms and conditions applicable to each Participating Entity will be determined by the Participating Entity following negotiation of a Participating Addendum with a Contractor.

**B. Participating Entities.**

1. If not proscribed by law or by the Chief Procurement Official of the state in which the entity is located, an entity may be eligible to execute a Participating Addendum directly with a Contractor. Such entities may include:



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- a. Political subdivisions, public agencies, and service districts;
    - b. Public and private educational institutions, including K-12 public, charter, and private schools; institutions of higher education; and trade schools;
    - c. Federally recognized tribes;
    - d. Quasi-governmental entities; and
    - e. Eligible non-profit organizations.
  2. Prior to execution of a Participating Addendum with an entity described above, a Contractor must coordinate with NASPO to confirm the entity's eligibility to execute a Participating Addendum. A determination that an entity is eligible to execute a Participating Addendum is not a determination that procurement authority exists; each entity must ensure it has the requisite procurement authority to execute a Participating Addendum.
- C. **Purchasing Entities.** Entities eligible to make purchases from a Participating Addendum will be identified by the Participating Entity in the Participating Addendum.
- D. **Potential Participation by Canadian Entities.** In addition to potential Participating Entities within the United States, any Canadian provincial government or provincially funded entity in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Yukon, including municipalities, universities, community colleges, school boards, health authorities, housing authorities, agencies, boards, commissions, and crown corporations, may be eligible to use a Master Agreement resulting from this RFP, with the approval of the Contractor.